

4th March 1926]

(d) whether the Government have acquired or are acquiring lands for the purpose?

- 4.—Some land was acquired last year for permanent station arrangements
- at Kurichipalla. The South Indian Railway's proposal made no mention of any intention that it should be the junction of the Mysore-Kanara Railway and there is no proposal for such a Railway before Government.

II

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(a)

The Secretary laid on the table copies of the proceedings of the fifteenth meeting of the Finance Committee for 1925-26 held on 5th February 1926.

(b)

With reference to the answer to the supplementary question to question No. 1165 given at the meeting of the Council held on 17th December 1925, the Secretary laid on the table copies of the Report of the Collector on special duty for land acquisition, Cauvery (Mettur) project.

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27.

[An Asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Before we proceed to the next order of the day, I should like to announce to the House that under sub-rule 3 of rule 28 of the Legislative Council Rules I have fixed, according to the practice hitherto adopted, a time-limit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member's speech during that discussion. The afternoon of the third day will be at the disposal of the hon. Members of the Government to make their replies.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Sir, may I draw your attention to the letter that I addressed to you the other day in which I requested that you will kindly be pleased to move the Government to take steps to change the order of the discussion of the budget in such a manner as to bring those subjects which have not been discussed in the previous years for discussion at first now ?”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That is a question for the Finance Department of the Government.”

* Rao Babadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, the budget as presented to the House shows that our repeated representations to the Government have been of no use whatever. Last year, Member after Member pressed upon the Government that they should not adopt the policy of providing for expenditure in anticipation of something turning up. Last year, the budget closed with a deficit of 90 lakhs, with the result that when the Government of India remitted Rs. 126 lakhs, as much as Rs 90 lakhs was swallowed up by this deficit. We urged upon the Government that that was bad and that they should provide for expenditure only after considering the ways and means. This sort of muddling in finance without due consideration

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [4th March 1926]

to the funds available should be avoided. But this year also we find a repetition of the same thing, viz., we have budgeted for a deficit of Rs. 76 lakhs, I suppose, on the assumption that the Government of India would give us a remission of the contributions. As a result, the sum of Rs. 57 lakhs which the Government of India propose to remit to us will all be swallowed up by the deficit. Practically, neither the House, nor the hon. Ministers, nor the heads of the departments have got any means of knowing in advance exactly where they stand and what funds will be available and what proposals they will have to make for the administration of the country. They send in all sorts of proposals, good, bad and indifferent. We find that every year heads of departments send up proposals for several times the amount that is available for expenditure. A choice is made, first by the department itself, then by the Finance Department and thirdly by the Finance Committee. If on the other hand, we were in a position to know exactly what funds would be available, we would be in a position to consider each question on its merits and demerits and evolve a well-thought-out scheme. This sort of haphazard consideration and sanction should be deprecated in any system of sound finance. We have now had five years of Reformed Administration. In other provinces there is the cry of inadequate funds; we have also been raising the same cry here in this Council. But let us look at the facts. When the Reformed Government began our income according to the statement given by the courtesy of the Finance Secretary in his Memorandum in the year 1920-21, was Rs. 1,550 lakhs and our expenditure was Rs. 1,130 lakhs. In addition to this sum of Rs. 1,130 lakhs we had to pay a contribution of Rs. 348 lakhs to the Government of India, thus making our expenditure Rs. 1,478 lakhs and leaving a decent balance. The revenue has risen from Rs. 1,560 lakhs to Rs. 1,634 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 74 lakhs in the last five years. If anything, the expenditure ought to have kept pace with the revenue; on the other hand it has increased from Rs. 1,130 lakhs to about Rs. 1,540 lakhs, deducting Rs. 170 lakhs or so that we have still to pay to the Government of India. So within these five years our expenditure has increased by about Rs. 400 lakhs whereas our revenue has increased only by about Rs. 75 lakhs. Is it proper for the Government to go on increasing our expenditure at this rate of Rs. 400 lakhs of rupees for five years? The other day the hon. the Finance Member was speaking about the inelastic nature of our revenues and its consequences. Is it sound finance to go on increasing our expenditure in the way in which it is being done in spite of it? It has been stated that the Government have made lots of retrenchment. Every one of us was congratulating himself that in this Presidency more retrenchment had been effected than in other presidencies. The result of the retrenchment is that we have increased our expenditure by Rs. 400 lakhs.

"Let me take a few examples. Take the Forest Department. We said that the establishment was too much. A small reduction was made.

11-30 a.m. "A new policy was put forward by the Members of this Council but it was not accepted at once. When there was a change in the personnel of the Chief Conservator of Forests, the new officer accepted the policy advocated by this House and gave effect to it with the result that the forests area that is under the Forest department will be very considerably reduced in the course of the next two or three years. A very large area, in

4th March 1926] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

charge of the Forest department now will be handed over either to the Revenue Department or to the forest panchayats. Only the other day, there was a committee sitting in Coimbatore and considering this question with reference to the Coimbatore district. My idea is that something like three-fourths of the forest area will be transferred to other departments. A large area is now set apart not for the purpose of growing timber or for protective purposes but for grazing. It is not ordinarily useful for cultivation or for forest resources. All such areas are going to be released and handed over either to the forest panchayats or the Revenue Department. Consequently there will have to be a large reduction in the establishment of the Forest department. What do we find in the budget presented to us? We find a small reduction in the establishment of the District Forest department. We find on the other hand another item creeping in, a fairly decent department, the Regeneration department, and that department is increasing in its personnel. It was said that in the Forest department we have practically a mine and that we are going to have millions and millions of money from the forests. It was also said that we were not developing them properly and if that was done we would be in a position to reduce our taxes considerably in other directions. That was the argument advanced time after time. During the last three years, the Forest department was allowed to go on as they pleased. After three years of trenchant criticism in this Council, we find the expenditure and the income, so far as the Forest department is concerned, tally. There is very little difference. So far as the revenue is concerned, we find that 52.33 lakhs has been budgeted for. The revised estimate is 51.68. On the expenditure side 45.80 lakhs is shown as one item and 5.68 as another item. Taking the two figures, we get 51½ lakhs. That is to say, the revenue from forests comes to almost exactly the cost of the forest administration according to the revised estimate. We have this mine. But what is the return we get from it? Absolutely nothing. We are told that the Government is husbanding their resources very well and everything is safe in their hands. They are working this mine so as to reduce the taxes in other directions. Is it a fact? After all, what has been done?

“Within the last five years we had taxes of various sorts. With the kindness of the hon. the Finance Member we were supplied only the other day with a list of the additional taxes that were imposed since the Reforms came into force. A number of districts have had their Land Revenue resettled. As a result of that, we have a lot of additional income from land revenue. Then under Excise, duties have been increasing in various ways. Under Stamps and Court Fees, the rates were inconsiderately raised. I use the word *inconsiderately* advisedly. The result is that litigation is a source of ruination to people who have the misfortune to go to courts. When a case has to go through the stages of three courts and when the party has to pay the cost of the other side, more than half the property will be exhausted even with the old rates. The cost has now increased by 50 per cent; an additional 50 per cent is added at each stage of the three courts, and what the result will be, it is unnecessary for me to describe. How do we stand with regard to that matter? Judicial administration should never be made a source of revenue in any civilized state. We find that the income under the head of judicial stamps comes to something like 150 lakhs, whereas the cost of administration of justice comes to only about 90 lakhs or so. We find that the Government is

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

[4th March 1926]

making a large profit out of litigation in this province. That, I submit, is immoral and it ought not to be allowed. It is a matter of taxing the people who have necessity to go to courts. It is not a tax on luxuries or anything like that. It is a tax really on the misfortune of people who go to courts and it ought not to be allowed to be put higher than the rate which is absolutely necessary. It seems to me that if there is any possibility of reducing it at least to the old level, it ought to be done as early as possible. It is a matter for consideration whether the Government would not have done better if, instead of increasing the charges as they have done, they had given effect to the very necessary reduction that has been called for by almost every district in the Presidency.

"There are various ways in which any windfall like the remission in our provincial contribution ought to have been used. It was only the other day that this Council by a large majority of people sitting on the side of the hon. the Minister passed a pious resolution that prohibition ought to be reached in the course of 20 years. I thought, Sir, that 20 years meant 20 years from now. If that is the case, some provision ought to have been made in the next year's budget for it. One could have understood if the hon. the Minister or the Finance Member had told that they had no money and that therefore they could not do anything. We have got a windfall; at least a fair and decent portion of that windfall ought to have been utilized for putting down the drink evil. We do not find any provision made for the purpose of putting down this evil. This is a very serious dereliction of duty on the part of the hon. the Minister and the hon. the Finance Member if they seriously believe that they are bound by the opinion of this Council so far as this matter is concerned. It was not the view of this part of the House which would not count so long as it is in a minority. It is a proposal which was made by hon. Members who sit on the other side of the House which are supposed to form the majority party in the House and as such their view ought to have been accepted and given effect to honestly. That has not been done. Sir, on the whole I find the budget as presented to us is one about which nobody need be very enthusiastic and the way in which it has been arranged is of a very doubtful character; and the provisions that have been made are not at all satisfactory so far as those departments which require help are concerned in spite of the fact that there has been constant agitation from the very beginning. On the whole, I think the budget is a very disappointing performance."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I wish to draw your attention and that of hon. Members of the Treasury Bench to some administrative matters with a view to avoiding additional expenditure and to have a reduction of cost. First of all, I wish to refer to the burning question of the day—the separation of the judicial and executive functions. That question has been before the country for more or less a century. Ever since Sir F J Halliday wrote his famous minute on this question in 1838, that question has been before the country. Coming to a very much later date, 1889, Sir Richard Gorth and other eminent and influential men sent a memorial to the Secretary of State. That memorial was forwarded by the Secretary of State for consideration and disposal by the Government of India. Coming to a later date—I am referring only to the important landmarks in connexion with this question—Sir Harvey Adamson, who was also a Judge of the Burma High Court, was for giving effect to this policy when he was a

4th March 1926]

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

Member of the Bengal Government. Nothing came out of that. Then, coming to a later date in 1917 when the Report of Public Services Commission was published, it was found that Sir Abdur Rahim wrote a dissenting minute in which he pleaded for the complete separation of these two departments. Nothing came out of that either. There was a great deal said about the additional expenditure that would be involved if effect were given to the proposal. The late R. C. Dutt showed more or less satisfactorily that there would practically be no additional expenditure if the scheme be put into operation. Later on, Sir William Vincent said in the Viceroy's Council that, if proposals were made by the Local Governments to the Government of India for giving effect to the separation, the Government of India would consider them. Subsequent to that a committee was appointed by this Government and that committee submitted certain proposals; certain members of that committee sent in dissenting minutes. Nothing came out of these proposals either. My hon. Friend, the hon. Law Member, from his seat in this Council stated several times that the matter was under correspondence between the Local Government and the Government of India and that action would be taken as soon as the reply of the Government of India was received. I find there was a question the other day in the House of Commons. There is practically nothing definitely stated by the Under Secretary of State. We do not know when this important question is going to be effectively tackled by the Local Government. Many hon. Members of this Council on both sides have given notices of resolutions. Owing to the exigencies of the ballot, those resolutions could not be moved. I hope my hon. Friend, the Law Member, will pay his immediate attention to this question and do something to effectively separate the executive and judicial functions.

"I wish to refer to another point in connexion with the administrative matters of the Police department.

"The other day we read in one of the local newspapers—the facts mentioned in that paper were also mentioned to me by the gentleman concerned—that a Member of this House who visited Pondicherry happened to go to the house of Mr. Arabinda Ghose and as soon as the former came out of Arabinda Ghose's house,—I may mention here that British Police, I mean members belonging to the C.I.D., are stationed in Pondicherry,—this gentleman was asked by the Pondicherry Police to go to the office of the Commissioner of Police there to give his father's name, his mother's name and his wife's name also. I do not know what the name of his poor wife has to do with this affair. He was asked not only to give the names of these three persons, but was also asked to affix his thumb mark, his finger impressions, not only of one finger but of all the ten fingers and also of the whole palm."

11-150
a.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Was that done by the British Police?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It was done with the concurrence of the British Police, I mean with the consent of the Inspector-General of Police. Otherwise there is no need for the Pondicherry Police to take this gentleman to the Commissioner of Police there and treat him in that manner. My information is that Mr. Arabinda Ghose is no longer engaged in any political controversy."

[4th March 1926]

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not want the hon. Member to take it for granted that all this was done with the concurrence of the British Police."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I did not hear the hon. the Law Member, Sir."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I said I did not want it to be taken for granted, because it is not a fact that any such thing was done, with the concurrence of the British Police."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Of course, it is a matter peculiarly within the knowledge of my hon. Friend on the Treasury Bench and that of the Inspector-General of Police. Anyway, does my hon. Friend suggest that the French Police, of their own accord and without any instructions from another Government—I mean the British Government—did this? How are the French Police concerned in this matter and what do they care whether a member of this House or anybody else goes to the house of Mr. Arabinda Ghose? If my hon. Friend, the Law Member, is in a position to deny that statement, I shall be very glad to welcome that and I shall apologise to him.

"With reference to this question, I may say that political exiles in France are not subjected to this treatment and political exiles from France and other countries from the continent who seek asylums in England are not treated like this. I do not want to dilate any further on this point. I merely wanted to draw the attention of this House to the iniquitous treatment that was accorded to a gentleman of this House by the French Police apparently on the initiative of this Government.

"One other subject which is under the control of my hon. Friend, the Law Member, and on which I wish to say something is the case of the copyists of the Judicial department. As a matter of fact, they form a very large body and they perform a useful part of the public functions. At present they are not borne on the pensionable list. Their pay is Rs. 14½ and in addition to this they get some additional remuneration which is proportionate to the number of pages they copy. My point is that the posts of copyists also may be made pensionable. As a matter of fact, in the Judicial department amins and even peons' posts are pensionable. I believe it is not too much to ask the Government to convert copyists' posts into pensionable ones, because except with reference to pension charges, which of course will be an additional burden to the Government, they are not likely to incur any other additional expenditure. The additional remuneration which copyists get for copying documents may be calculated and the average of this sum may be fixed as the pay which they should get. I would earnestly plead that the posts of copyists in the Judicial department be made pensionable.

"One other subject I wish to refer to is in connexion with the Jail administration and that is the release of Mr. P. Narayana Menon. As a matter of fact, a memorial signed by many influential members of the taluk boards, municipal councils, taluk board presidents and the district board president of Malabar and also by many malikhana holders who have no inclination for political activity at all was sent to Government. The last mentioned gentlemen avoid taking part in such questions as far as possible. They receive pensions from Government and even they have signed this

4th March 1926]

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

memorial. My hon. Friend, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar, when he occupied a less embarrassing position and other prominent citizens of Madras, such as Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariyar, Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar and others, also signed this memorial praying that Mr. P. Narayana Menon might be released as an act of mercy. A motion was tabled on the floor of this House and it was passed. No division was taken and it was passed *nem con.* Latterly my hon. Friend, the Law Member, must have been receiving a large number of telegrams and letters from the presidents of several public meetings held in different parts of the Presidency praying for the release of Mr. P. Narayana Menon. The other day I found in one of the daily newspapers a report of four European gentlemen who have no axe to grind having sent a petition to the Government praying for the release of Mr. Narayana Menon. I hope my hon. Friend, the Law Member, and His Excellency will sympathetically consider these various points and release Mr. Narayana Menon.

"With reference to the Irrigation Bill that was introduced in this House some time back, it was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, that the one reason why that Bill was introduced was that unless that Bill was passed the Government of India was not likely to advance money to this Government for the construction of the Mettur project and that therefore he wanted the Bill to be passed immediately. Now, we know that with the sanction of the Secretary of State very large sums have been spent and are proposed to be spent on the Mettur project. In the current year some 7½ lakhs have been spent and in the next year some 9½ lakhs are estimated to be spent. A sum of 4 lakhs of rupees is proposed to be spent on the establishment for the construction and other works connected with the Mettur project. I wish to know how it has been possible for my hon. Friend to spend large sums of money on the Mettur project without any irrigation law.

"I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Education to some points in connexion with the departments in his charge. The other day it was elicited by questions and answers that girl pupils in the Queen Mary's College when they failed twice in the junior intermediate class were not allowed to continue in that class for a third year. The answer of my hon. Friend, the Education Minister, was that unless they changed their groups they could not continue for a third year. The change of a group for any student is particularly hard and I think in the case of girls it is harder still. As far as I can see and as far as I was able to gauge the sense of the House, there is no reason why girl pupils should not be allowed to continue for a third year. I hope the hon. the Minister will alter the rules so as to allow girl pupils in Queen Mary's College to continue for a third year also in junior intermediate class without their being compelled either to leave the college or change their group.

"I wish to refer to only one other point. Last year when the second-grade college of Palghat was raised to a first grade college it was affiliated in three groups, namely, History, Philosophy and Languages. As a matter of fact—I speak from memory—it was mentioned in the Government Order that was issued at that time that the institution would be affiliated in Mathematics also in the ensuing year. I think it will not be very difficult for the Government to affiliate the college in Mathematics also because it will not be

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

[4th March 1926]

very expensive and I hope the hon. the Minister will do so in the coming year. I find from the budget estimate that a sum of one crore and 38 lakhs has been provided for the coming year in D.P.W. For Mathematics group structural alterations are not very large and they can be effected at a very small cost. I do hope that, before the college reopens in July, my hon. Friend, the Minister for Education, will seriously consider the promise which he made in the Government Order that was issued last year, and affiliate this college in Mathematics group also."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, within the time prescribed which it is our duty to loyally and respectfully carry out, it is not possible in the very nature of things to subject the budget to any lengthy or detailed criticism. Our criticisms must necessarily be of a general nature except when we attempt to turn our searchlights with a view to focus the attention of the House on some defects here and some weak or dark spots there in certain branches of administration.

"The hon. the Finance Member in introducing his budget has been frank enough to state as follows :—'I have not been able to place before this Council a more attractive picture of our financial position'. If by this is meant that the picture that is presented is attractive enough, I must in all humility lodge my caveat against it. It is not at all attractive and he will excuse me and the House will also excuse me if I characterise this budget as unattractive and pre-eminently unsatisfactory. But at the same time when we come to the next line, he says "it is however unnecessary as yet to take a sombre view of our prospects". The House will mark the words 'as yet'. This cautious indication does not preclude the possibility of our being compelled to take a gloomy and sombre view of the prospects. If the budget presented by the then Finance Member, the hon. Mr. Graham, was one framed on a conservative basis, I fancy that this budget of Mr. Moir proceeds on an optimistic basis buttressed by hopes, the fruition and the realization of which can only be supposed to lie in the womb of the future which nobody can predict with certainty.

12
noon.

"And we hope and trust that his anticipations will be fulfilled. Or it may be that he has drawn his inspiration for his optimistic views from the Government astrologer for whom a remuneration of Rs. 100 has been provided in the budget. Whatever that may be, I am very sorry to note that the ensuing year also is to close with a deficit of about 76 lakhs. When Mr. Graham introduced his budget last year, it revealed a deficit of 88.03 lakhs. But with the remission of 126 lakhs of our contribution combined with some minor modifications promised, we were enabled or rather we expected that the deficit might be converted to a surplus of 29.58 lakhs. But what are the actuals now? Instead of an anticipated surplus budget of 29.58 lakhs, we are to have only 6.19 lakhs, and how is that figure arrived at? That is the next question to which I propose to address myself. This modest sum of 6.19 lakhs was reached by the saving of expenditure on two nation-building departments, namely, 3.51 lakhs under Education and 1.52 lakhs under Industry. In other words, the two nation-building departments for which we have been clamouring for more money have been starved to the extent of five lakhs of rupees. Whose fault it is I am not able to say. But the Ministers who are responsible for allowing this diversion are bound to offer an explanation to the House as to why they found

4th March 1926]

[Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

themselves unable to spend even this small allotment. Year in and year out we have been asking for more allotments under several heads, namely, education, medical relief, industry, sanitation, roads and communications. Year after year we find the departments not utilizing to the fullest advantage the funds allotted. Is it due to any incompetency on their part, inefficiency or unwillingness or a desire on their part to surrender to more pressing claims made by the Reserved half. The House may also remember that the Transferred half did not spend the whole allotment provided for in 1924-25 and that was the reason why, in the budget for 1925-26, they came in for a good deal of adverse criticism. It was thought, it was felt and it was honestly believed that the Ministers would have profited themselves by that criticism. But that was not to be. For we find the Ministers surrendering, wittingly or unwittingly, a sum of five lakhs under two heads which I have indicated already, namely, Education and Industry. It has been said—and I also share that feeling—in responsible quarters that every year we meet in March, spend a lot of time in making speeches, in hearing speeches, in giving a lot of trouble to the Treasury Benches, doing nothing, achieving nothing, all along allowing the Government to have their own way of doing things in their merry-go-round fashion. That remark seems to be just, and it appears to be mainly provoked by the attitude of the Government for the past one year. Let me illustrate myself by just one instance. The House may perhaps remember that last time as many as 1,200 motions on the voting of demands were tabled. More than 1,000 were guillotined for want of time and out of the 200 that came up for discussion about a hundred were not moved, and out of the balance of 100, only six or seven were carried by a majority, while the rest were lost. But what has been the attitude of the Government in respect of this small number of half a dozen motions that were carried in Council? The Government restored them. We succeeded in carrying a motion to omit the allotment for the Settlement branch of the Board of Revenue and for the post of Official Referee. The first was completely restored, while the second was certified in the first instance for six months and later for the other six months as well. Then again, we brought in a motion for a cut under Judges and Registrar of the High Court as a protest against the appointment of temporary judges. That motion for reduction was carried, but it was turned down by His Excellency in exercise of his certifying powers. Similarly, we brought a motion for a reduction under Jails and Special Jails, and with no better result. Therefore it is that people have begun to think that every year we meet here and enact a huge farce without being able to do anything in the matter. That is the general feeling and I am only echoing it, that the Government have their own way of doing things unaffected by the criticisms that we are passing and uninfluenced by any suggestion that we may give on the floor of this House.

“What has been then the attitude of the Government in respect of the Land Revenue Bill. The House will remember that we turned down the Bill that was introduced in this Council by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp two years ago. And every time we meet here we have been pressing upon the attention of the Government to know exactly where the Government stands, what its attitude is with respect to the reintroduction of the Land Revenue Bill which was turned down by us as it was found to contain some provisions

[Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

[4th March 1926]

of an absolutely reactionary and unsatisfactory character. Two years have since rolled by. The joint Parliamentary Committee made its recommendations seven years ago. Seven precious years have rolled by and no serious attempt seems to have been made in the direction. And in answer to a question put on the subject this morning, it has been stated that the matter is still under correspondence. Whether it will be consigned to the limbo of oblivion or whether it is likely to come in the near or immediate future, nobody on this side of the House is able to say. It seems to me that the Government have absolutely no justification in withholding the Bill, not only that, but in carrying on their settlement operations under executive orders and instructions. And I understand that quite recently Anantapur is proposed to be brought within the purview of the settlement operations. I do not accuse the Government of bad faith in this matter, but I am not convinced of their good faith.

“ Again, so far as the Irrigation Bill is concerned, much time and labour have been spent by the House and the Bill has been recommitted to it. All these show a certain kind of mentality on the part of the Government and the people are inclined to think that the outlook of the Madras Government is becoming more and more narrow and that there should be not only a change in the angle of vision but a change of heart so that the Government may be really responsible to the people. And it seems to me, Sir, that so far as the bureaucratic machine is concerned, it is wanting in that element of responsibility. The hon. the Finance Member at the very outset of his speech invited us to attend the final obsequies of the last completed financial year. But before we can seriously think of participating in the obsequies of the last completed financial year, we have been overtaken with the obsequies of the present year, and I do not know how many such obsequies are in store for us. Probably the hon. the Finance Member has reminded us of the annual obsequies of 1924-25; and we are called upon to perform the monthly obsequies for 1925-26 and probably in 1926-27 we may be called upon to participate in the obsequies for that completed year. But let that pass. Going through the budget, I find that small allotments have been made so far as the nation-building departments are concerned. Although the expenditure for which commitments have been made by the Government exceed the revenue by 3.91 lakhs, new schemes involving an expenditure of 72.55 lakhs for the coming year have been approved. Out of this amount, only 33 lakhs go to the developmental departments. I cannot understand why the whole of the 57 lakhs which we have received as the second instalment of remission has not been earmarked for the development of the nation-building departments. It is true that elementary education gets something and I think the idea is to have more schools. But I am not at all satisfied with that for substantial steps must be taken in the direction so that, within a measurable period of time, the huge monster of illiteracy might be turned out. Again, so far as co-operative credit is concerned, there is an allotment of some subsidy only to two district federations, that of South Kanara and Chingleput. I know there are other federations in other districts which stand in need of similar allotments and I fail to see why provision has not been made.

“ Passing on to Local Self-Government, I do not think that the hon. the Minister can boast of any achievement worth the name. The allotments for roads and communications, trunk roads and so on, medical relief, bridges, etc.,

4th March 1926] [Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

are hardly sufficient. But care has been taken by that department to consolidate their forces by appointing their own men for party purposes and by nominating their own candidates to serve on the local boards and municipalities as the case may be. I do not want to advert to the matter at all for that represents the most painful and sorry side of the achievements of the hon. Minister who though responsible for the working of the Act has cast to the winds the beneficent provisions of the Act by nominating certain persons of his party in utter disregard of the provisions contained in section 9 of the Local Boards Act and 11 (5) of the City Municipal Act. Again, it is stated in the speech of the Finance Member with reference to this department that the local bodies have been lax in the matter of collection to the extent of not being able to collect 12 per cent of the total receipts. And I utterly sympathise with the hon. the Finance Member when he says :

‘I sincerely trust that his (meaning the hon. the Raja of Panagal’s) effort will result in a distinct improvement : for our provincial finances are sufficiently strained to meet the legitimate requirements of local bodies without being called upon to shoulder a further burden arising out of their remissness or inefficiency.’

“I would ask the hon. Raja of Panagal one of these days to undertake a tour, expensive or not, and to make up his mind to get into the interior and satisfy himself about the sanitation and the condition of the roads in the several parts of the country. So far as his tours are concerned, they are confined to the headquarters of taluks or districts and it is no wonder that the hon. Minister is not in a position to know the wretched condition of some of the roads in the interior. I hope and trust that he will press for more liberal provision under this head.

“As I began, I shall end, Sir, by characterising this budget as by no means attractive but as a most gloomy and disappointing budget.”

*MR. C. GOPALA MENON :—“I shall first of all congratulate the hon the Finance Member who has presided over the Finance Department for the excellent and lucid budget which he has presented. He has presented it in such a way as to enable us to grasp the details of the budget very readily. But the only unfortunate part of it is that it is a deficit budget. At the same time, however, it is a consolation to us to know that the current year shows a surplus to the tune of 6.19 lakhs. The anticipated deficit of the current year is 19.46 lakhs and the Finance Member proposes to place this deficit to the loan account. It will be excusable if the revenue deficits are adjusted to the revenue account as a temporary measure. I venture to suggest that these revenue deficits should be written to the revenues of the next or succeeding year or must be met by cuts.

“There is another small matter to which the hon. the Finance Member has made reference on page 2 of his Budget speech, and that is the withdrawal of the customs duty by the Government of India for stores imported into this Presidency. In this case it is only a small amount, about 2 lakhs but it is not so much the amount but the principle involved in it that I wish to emphasise. It is most unfair that the Central Government should by adjustment take away that item because they are giving us a remission of our provincial contributions. It only means that the Central Government is taking away from us with one hand what they are giving us with the other.

“I would be failing in my duty if I do not make mention of the progressive policy which the hon. the Finance Member is taking up in the first year

[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]

[4th March 1926]

of his regime. I would refer to the sum that he has allotted 72.55 lakhs, that is 11.33 lakhs recurring and 61.22 lakhs non-recurring. Of course 61.22 lakhs non-recurring expenditure may be much to spare out of the revenues of the year. But that only shows that in the first year of his regime he has allotted money for the most urgent and important needs of this Presidency. And he justifies his action on two grounds. He says: it would be seriously adverse to the political and administrative advance of the province if in the wide field of our activities progress and improvement came by jerks and spasms, years or periods of stagnation being followed by years or periods of feverish activity. . . . In the first place we are entitled to look forward to the disappearance of considerable expenditure of an abnormal and non-recurring character, and in the second place we are not forgetful of the fact that we still had expectations of a remission in the contributions being received from the Government of India. In this connexion I wish to say one or two words about the remission of provincial contribution. Since the Reforms, in spite of retrenchment, in spite of additional taxation, in spite of surpluses with the Government of India, the Central Government have not kept up their promised goal of the abolition of the provincial contributions. It only amounts to this, that the expanding needs of the provinces in what may be called the nation-building departments still remain unfulfilled. It was the other day in the Bombay Legislative Council, His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson told that House that unless the Viceroy and the Secretary of State think it fit to revise the Meston award, His Excellency's Government would not be able to carry out their legitimate obligations to the people of that Presidency. I hope and trust that the hon. the Finance Minister who put up such a sturdy fight in the Legislative Assembly on behalf of this Presidency while he was a Member of that Council, will try his level best that the contribution is abolished at the earliest possible date. In that task he will have the co-operation of the sister Presidencies.

"There is another important budget matter to which I wish to make reference. I mean the provision of 10 lakhs made for the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme. If there is anything that will perpetuate the regime of the hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar as a Member of the Government, it will be the inauguration of the water power resources of this Presidency. I am referring to the Pykara scheme as well as the great Mettur project. Hon. Members will be aware of the keen discussion that took place in this House during the last Budget debate in the course of which the hon. Law Member told us that he would give us an opportunity of discussing the report about that scheme. But that opportunity was not afforded to this House, probably the whole scheme would not have taken definite shape. Whatever that may be, the hon. the Law Member assured us in that debate in this House as well as in the public utterances of his both at Trichinopoly and when he presided the other day at the Prize Distribution ceremony of the Engineering College at Guindy, about the manifold uses of cheap electricity. There is no doubt that cheap generating power for industrial purposes in this Presidency will be both a boon and a blessing. We can develop many industries by having cheap electricity. I may mention one or two instances, viz., aluminium and soap industry. We have got aluminium ores in many places in this Presidency, and cheap electricity is necessary in heating the furnaces to a high degree. I may also give another instance, and that is soap. The chief ingredient required for producing

4th March 1926]

[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]

soap is caustic soda, and caustic soda is made by passing electricity through salt water. But the question is what are we going to be asked to pay for the electricity. Mr. Forbes' report says that we shall have to pay 0·8 anna which comes to over 9 pies per unit. That is certainly high as compared with the rates obtaining in other countries for cheap electricity. In England owing to the smallness and flatness of the country there is no water power, and they are making electricity out of coal, but still they are paying for their electricity for industrial purposes at 0·3 penny to 0·9 penny per unit. I happened to read the other day a report of a speech delivered by the Chairman of the Iron and Steel Industry, in an English journal, in which he said that in Scandinavia hydro-electricity can be obtained for industrial purposes at a rate below £2 per kilo-wat year. In America at 15 dollars to 20 dollars per kilo-wat year and in England at £8 for a kilo-wat year. When reduced to Indian money it will come to below Rs. 30 in Scandinavia, Rs. 35 to 45 in America and Rs. 120 in England per kilo-wat year; exchange at 1s. 4d. per rupee. The rate we have to pay when reduced to unit would be less than one pie in Scandinavia, over a pie in America and about 3 pies in England and in Madras 9 pies per unit. I place these figures before the hon. the Law Member so that he may scrutinise them and see what should be done in the matter.

“Turning now to the Transferred Departments, I find that the increase of one per cent has not been allotted to the nation-building departments. Is that consistent with the assurance given by the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter in 1924-25? He said

‘as has been recognized, once we secure a remission of contributions, the Transferred Departments are to have the first claim, and the claim of the Transferred Departments would eat up any money that there is to spare several times over.’

“I find that the total allotment made to the Transferred Departments amount to only 526·84 lakhs; on the other hand, it ought to be 550·93 lakhs under the promise made by Sir Charles Todhunter. Coming to the Agricultural Department, I find that only Rs. 18,500 is allowed for the collection of agricultural statistics in the Presidency. I consider this is a very small amount in view of the importance of the work involved. I find that only Rs. 500 has been allotted for exhibitions and fairs. Considering the vast sums spent for fairs and exhibitions in other countries, I consider this a very paltry sum. I hope that the hon. the Development Minister will do his best to increase this amount. It is not clear to me what happens to the Agricultural Research Institute as there appears to be a reduction of Rs. 1,25,000. With regard to pioneering industries, what I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Development Minister is that the industries have not helped the people in the country to any extent. They have not in any way enabled the people to start small industries and induce them to take up the manufacture of the necessary articles. I find that an allotment of 14·64 lakhs has been provided for in the budget for education. This is certainly a welcome sign. An educational policy which aims at the improvement of the condition of the people must be a primary concern of Government and one of the first charges on its revenue. But what do we find here? We find that 2 lakhs are provided for primary education, and that private aided institutions are being replaced by institutions of local bodies. The other day, the *Madras Mail* aptly remarked ‘it is so much more politically advantageous to boast of local board schools than those managed by aided agency.

[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]

[4th March 1926]

Aided education is so much cheaper than official education that only a wilfully blind tax-payer would fail to see where his interests are best served.' I am speaking with regard to the lethargy shown by the hon. the Education Minister in not encouraging aided institutions. I wish to quote a paragraph from the utterances of a great American Educational Minister in this connexion :—

' Provided that the required standard of educational efficiency is reached, aided institutions should be regarded as filling a place in the scheme of education as important as that of the schools conducted by Government departments. The utilization of these voluntary agencies economises the revenues available for educational purposes '.

" With regard to Public Health, I find there is an increase of Rs. 80,000 for establishments whereas the grant for public health purposes has been reduced by 5 lakhs. The present figure for grants for Public Health is 21·7 lakhs which means a decrease of 13 lakhs since 1923-24. I leave it to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to see whether my figures are right. There are several other points to which I wish to refer, but my time is up, and, I have to resume my seat."

* Khad Bahadur HAJI ABDUL-LA HAJI QASIM SAHIB Bahadur :—
 " Mr. President, Sir, it is, indeed, a matter for regret that this year also a deficit budget has been presented. Last year we hoped that the reduction in our contribution to the Central Government would greatly relieve us from our pecuniary embarrassment. But the reduction was so far below our expectation and to-day we are faced with a huge deficit. The hon. the Finance Member must have made honest efforts and put forth all his energy to present a Square Budget this year. But I think in the face of hard facts and circumstances beyond his control, he has failed in his attempts. I heartily sympathise with him and wish him better luck next time. But I feel constrained to impress one thing upon Government and it is this. However wise the Government might be, it seems to me that in many cases of retrenchment it is following the policy of ' penny wise, pound foolish.' In its eagerness to effect retrenchment the Government sends away many low-paid poor clerks, peons and constables. But at the other end in the interests of the supposed efficiency of Government a number of highly-paid posts is increased. The result is that the administration becomes top-heavy and the object is far from being achieved. Some time ago the question of retrenchment was so persistently talked of and so many ways and means devised to carry it out that, in every nook and corner of villages even, let alone cities and towns, the main topic of gossip was retrenchment. After so much has been said and done we are not better off to-day. Faced with huge deficits every year, we are drifting. In the matter of retrenchment let me make a suggestion with reference to the districts of South Kanara and Malabar. The same suggestion may be considered with reference to other districts also where the conditions are similar. Formerly Udipi and Karkal were one taluk under one Tahsildar. But only about ten years ago the two were separated into different taluks with additional establishments, and thus the number of taluks now is six. What I would suggest now as a measure of retrenchment is this. Udipi and Karkal may again be rejoined as one taluk. The northernmost taluk of Coondapur may, if necessary, be joined to the contiguous district of North Kanara under the Bombay Government. Under this redistribution there will be left only four taluks in South Kanara. Even supposing that for some reason or other Coondapur cannot be joined

4th March 1926] [Mr. Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib]

to North Kanara there will be left only five taluks as it was before the separation of Udipi and Karkal. And to these if the two northernmost taluks out of the nine taluks of Malabar are added, there will be seven taluks in South Kanara and the same number in Malabar also. Under such an arrangement there will not be much additional expenditure in South Kanara; but on the other hand there will be a distinct saving for Government in the administration of Malabar, and moreover the tenancy question regarding the two separated taluks of Malabar will, I think, be simplified.

"Let me take this opportunity to speak about some important matters touching my district and my community. It is understood that Government wants to abolish some of the police stations in the village parts of South Kanara and to reduce the number of constables. If Government wants to do this merely for retrenchment I am afraid that this step is not in the right direction. Let me here point out that in this year's Budget estimate Government have provided an increased expenditure of Rs. 4,13,000 for police administration instead of showing a retrenchment. No doubt the police administration is too costly and expenditure far exceeds the income. But this branch of Government has to justify its existence by effectively protecting the life, liberty and property of the subjects and by maintaining law and order. The very existence of village stations is a source of great safety and security to the people living in scattered houses, far from one another and not in groups as in other districts. I do not know what appreciable economy could be effected by abolishing these small police stations. Economy must be carried out in some other quarter, not this. Heinous crimes like murder and dacoity are now and then reported from these village parts. When the stations are removed, marauders and bad characters will have a free hand to do as they like with impunity. The poor ignorant villagers will be put in constant fear and danger of being molested when the check is removed. Crimes will remain undetected as the police, being away from the scene, cannot take prompt action. Offenders cannot be brought to book speedily and without unnecessary trouble and expense. Sir, I would, therefore, strongly urge upon Government to retain police stations in the village parts.

12-30
p.m.

"Sir, coming to the matter touching my own community I have only to repeat what men of great experience and mature judgment like the late lamented Gopal Krishna Gokhale and at present Sir Abdur Rahim have persistently given expression to. At the present imperfect stage of development of the Muslim community, communal representation, both in Government services and on local bodies is still essential to safeguard its interests. At the present stage if the Mussalmans are not provided with the proper safeguards necessary to facilitate full growth and advancement, they are sure to be handicapped and their place will be nowhere. Let me not be misunderstood when I say all this. I assure you, Sir, that I can never be opposed to national aspirations and national advancement. On the other hand, I will do all that lies in my power to promote progress on national lines. But, Sir, it is to be clearly remembered that the car of progress cannot proceed an inch on one wheel alone, unless the other wheel is sufficiently strengthened by providing proper safeguards for its free rotation. Unless the Mussalmans are also given opportunities to have their proper share in the scheme of Government, I doubt, Sir, whether there can

[Mr. Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib]

[4th March 1926]

be real progress at all. It is only when the Mussalmans are fully equipped and qualified, and not before, that they will be able to take their firm stand by the side of their sister community in all efforts for national evolution. In this connexion I would like to make a suggestion which I commend to the serious consideration both of Government and this Council. Seats should be reserved for Mussalmans both in Government services and on local bodies in proportion to the percentage of Muslim population in the different areas. Sir, with regard to the Government services, I would here draw the attention of the Government to the letter dated the 21st November 1925 with reference to the resolution of the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India forwarded by its Honorary Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Government. The resolution, which is a united demand of the Muslims of Southern India, urges upon Government the necessity for fixing the number of posts at 20 per cent. Sir, it is provided by the Reforms Act that of the elected Members of the Legislative Council from every district one must be a non-Brahman. On some such principle the representation of Mussalmans on local bodies should be ensured. For instance, in a district where the proportion of the Mussalmans is 1 to 2 as in Malabar, it should be provided that the president of the district board, every third time, should be a Mussalman, whether elected or nominated. I take this opportunity to respectfully urge on Government to appoint a committee to consider my suggestion and to formulate a scheme by working out the details with regard to particular areas.

“Sir, it is unnecessary for me here to repeat again that the most important matter that touches the welfare of my community is education. No one can deny that it is the panacea for all evils. It is the crying need of Mussalmans even to-day; but poverty is a stumbling block in their way. And now opportunities and facilities even are being denied to them. Time and again have I cried myself hoarse about this problem but in vain, and my cry is in the wilderness. The problem of Muslim education is being deliberately shelved and the tendency is clearly to discourage the establishment of Hindustani schools. Out of hundreds of Board Elementary schools opened during the last two years with Government subsidy, not one has been allotted for Mussalmans in South Kanara in spite of my repeated requests to the hon. the Minister for Education. I think the other districts also have shared the same fate. Sir, it is, no doubt, a good thing that educational matters have been entrusted to the local self-governing bodies. But there Sir, the national zeal, coupled with the inadequate representation of Mussalmans, is going so far that the legitimate claim of Mussalmans to have separate schools for their proper education is being opposed. A Swarajist member of the taluk board in my taluk has gone even to the length of recording his dissenting note for the opening of new Hindustani schools. The plea is put forward that communalism retards the progress of the country. I quite appreciate the principle and the noble sentiment behind it. I have already said that I am not opposed to national aspirations. But our zeal in this direction should not blind us to the just and legitimate claims of others, claims that are essential to their well-being; and it is to be borne in mind that national progress must be broad-based on the well being of all concerned. The present tendencies, Sir, are leading to an alarming situation and Mussalmans, with any degree of consciousness of responsibility, cannot shut their eyes to it. We Muslim Members must strain every nerve to save the situation and I appeal to all the other Members for support. At the same time I

4th March 1926] [Mr. Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib]

beg to impress upon Government the necessity for making Muslim Education a matter of State concern and take over its control from the local bodies, if nothing else could be done. Sir, it is deplorable that Government have provided only a paltry sum of Rs. 10,003 in aid of Mappilla cottage industries. It is simply ridiculous to suppose that such a small sum could in any way encourage the industries. Government must be more liberal in this matter.

“Another thing, Sir, which I wish to mention is the contemplated amendment of the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts. As some of the sections are rather vague it is necessary that these Acts should be amended. But these amendments should be in the right direction so as to give more powers to the people and not to take retrograde steps by withdrawing the powers already vested in the local bodies. There may be some local bodies whose administration may not be efficient. But that does not mean that the whole local self-government is inefficient. Sir, Government must trust the people, and there must be mutual co-operation. Are not local self-governing bodies a part and parcel of the Government? The Government officers are, therefore, in fairness, required to assist the local bodies in their administration. The local boards have no executive staff of their own. Nor their slender resources permit of the entertainment of such staff. They, therefore, stand in need of help in all matters from the Government officers. If the object of Government is to make local self-government a success, it is incumbent on Government to see that its officers do co-operate with the local boards. I am afraid there may be some officers who think that they have nothing to do with local bodies. Hence I humbly request Government to issue special instructions to their officers to co-operate with local boards so as to make their administration as efficient as possible.

“Sir, one more thing I wish to say before I conclude. I hear that there is a vague proposal to constitute Udipi into a municipality against the wishes of the people. From my experience as a resident of this small town and also as president of the taluk board till lately I am of opinion that a municipality for Udipi at present is not at all necessary. So far as I know the hon. the Chief Minister has been kind enough not to force a municipality up till now against the wishes of the people. So I hope and trust that the popular Minister will not take such an undesirable step in this case also.”

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“I confess I am unable to deal with the budget figures for the simple reason that they are too voluminous to follow. Even if I should have devoted some more time, without the help of the officials concerned, it may not be possible for us to suggest any effective cuts unless we are informed about the manner in which the stores are purchased by the Government. The establishment is duplicated or tribled in places where they are unnecessary and unless more detailed estimates of the works they propose to take next year are made available to the members of this Council we cannot do much in that direction. I shall not therefore attempt any criticism on the figures of the budget. I am merely amazed at the unquenchable thirst of the Government of Madras in having been able to swallow not only the 125 lakhs which were remitted to us by the Government of India last year but also the 57 lakhs which are promised this year. Sir, my enthusiasm to get the remission of the provincial contribution is slowly cooling down in view of the fact that not even

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar]

[4th March 1926]

a small portion of this huge sum of money is devoted or spent to the nation-building departments as they were originally promised. Of course, the explanation given by Government is very plausible in that there was no undertaking on the part of the Government of India or the Government of Madras that the whole amount would be utilized for the Transferred Departments though in the speeches made by responsible men there was absolutely no doubt as to their intentions. It was contended that the redemption of debt was also a nation-building affair and that this debt ought to be redeemed before money could be expended upon other departments. I dare say even if the Government of India should be so disposed to remit the whole contribution the Government of Madras will be able to swallow the whole amount so much so that we shall have nothing left to the nation-building departments. It is up to the Ministers to put up a fight. There is absolutely nothing done in spite of the protestations made by the Government of Madras. I shall only place a few complaints of grievances so that the hon. Members concerned may give us the assurance that they will be looked into and rectified if possible. I propose to deal with the matters in the same order in which they are seated.

“Sir, in spite of the fact that the Legislative Council has passed a motion to cut away the allotment for the provision of temporary Judges in the High Court they are still being retained temporarily. I wish they would rather be made permanent instead of making this temporary prolongation. It is demoralising; this temporary retention is demoralising. But in the communication which the Government of Madras have issued recently they seem to reply upon the opinion of the hon. Judges of the High Court that the retention of these temporary Judges is necessary. It seems to me rather indelicate that the Hon'ble Judges should be asked to express an opinion whether two of their Colleagues are necessary or not. Anybody will be reluctant to say that two of their number are supernumerary. It is the business of the Government to find out if the work has so considerably increased as to make it necessary for the retention of these two additional Judges. If they are convinced and if they are able to convince the public and the Council, by all means let recommendations go forth that they should be made permanent instead of continuing them on a temporary basis.

12-45
p.m.

“Sir, from the High Court I come down to the Coom. (Laughter.) Sir, the present condition of the Coom is most deplorable. Our sense of smell is so often outraged by the most foul-smelling odours from the Coom, and the Government of Madras are solely responsible for making the Coom as it is to-day. (Laughter.) They are letting out the sewage of the General Hospital, the Penitentiary and other public buildings on the banks of the Coom flow into this river and making the Coom most foul-smelling. (The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: ‘What about Chintadripet?’) The hon. the Law Member may turn round and say that the Corporation also is partly responsible for the present condition of the Coom. But if the Government will give us an assurance that they will not discharge into the Coom all that sewage, we shall at once stop any flow of sewage from Chintadripet into the Coom. As a matter of fact, the work of sewerage that area has already been taken in hand by the Corporation and by the end of this year we promise that the Corporation shall not be a party to making the Coom insanitary. But let me have the assurance of the Government of Madras that they shall improve

4th March 1926] [Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar]

the condition of the Cooum. There have been several schemes for the improvement of the Cooum, and one scheme which seems to have found favour with the Government of Madras costs nearly Rs. 3 lakhs, and they have asked the Corporation as to the amount which the Corporation would be able to contribute for this work. I fail to see why the Corporation should be asked to pay any moiety of this cost. The Government are bound to assist in keeping the Cooum sanitary. As a matter of fact, the Government of Madras is escaping being booked by the Corporation for letting the sewage of their public buildings into the Cooum, on account of the section in the Municipal Act, which makes them immune from being prosecuted by the Corporation.

"I then bring forward to the notice of the Government the condition of the Government cheris in the City of Madras. There is any amount of profession of sympathy on the part of the Government towards the depressed classes. I thought this subject was in the province of the hon. the Law Member, but I see it is in charge of the hon. the Home Member. The state of some of the Government cheris affords a very good excuse for the owners of private cheris to neglect the condition of these localities. I shall be only glad if the hon. the Home Member will try to improve the condition of what is called the 'Magazine cheri,' which affords the best illustration of the most neglected condition of these cheris, and where perhaps for the last one hundred years, I dare say, not even a piece of metal could have found room. I beg the hon. the Home Member to pay more attention to the most distressing condition of these cheris and improve them, so that we might go to the owners of private cheris and compel them to improve the condition of the places of which they are owners. (Mr. R. Veerian: 'Hear, hear.') I am glad my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian agrees with my proposal in this direction. I hope, Sir, you will always bear in mind that if anybody neglects the condition of the depressed classes it is more the Government than anybody else.

"And for the hon. Member Mr. Marjoribanks, I have nothing. (Laughter.) I shall pass on to the hon. the Home Member on one other point. On one or two occasions I brought to his notice and to the notice of this House the condition of the Rangoon passengers, especially the third-class passengers. Sir, in various newspapers, the grievances of these passengers have found place. The conditions under which they are made to travel are beyond any description, and even in the matter of disembarkation from the ships in the Madras port, I am told that they are made to walk up nearly a distance of a mile and a half before they can find a jutka or a rickshaw to take them home. A slight alteration in the disinfection shed in the Port Trust compound will greatly remove this one inconvenience at any rate. As for the conditions under which these passengers are made to travel on board the ship, a more detailed statement will be submitted to the hon. the Home Member if he will promise to make an enquiry and see that these things are rectified.

"Sir, on one matter on which there is unanimity of opinion amongst all sections of this House is the demand for the release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon. Why I became so interested in his case is the fact that the Rev. Mr. Hogg of the Christian College, who was for some time the missionary giving some lectures to this gentleman in the Penitentiary, came of his own accord to me and told me that Mr. Narayana Menon's case should engage

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar] [4th March 1926]

the attention of the Government, and he requested me to move a resolution regarding his release. I felt somewhat surprised that that gentleman should have interfered in this matter, because it is very rarely that missionary gentlemen take any interest in political detainees at any rate. I therefore had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that Mr. Narayana Menon must be an exemplary person inasmuch as he was able to elicit the sympathy of Rev. Mr. Hogg in the matter of the demand for his release. It seems to me strange that the Government of Madras should be so hard-hearted, so much relying upon their prestige, that they refuse to heed to the request of the Legislative Council and also of other public men in the matter of his release. After all, what could one single Narayana Menon do, if he was released? Sir, more revolutionary criminals, more hardened assassins and murderers have been released by the clemency exercised by the Government. Would it be too much for us to ask the Madras Government to be sympathetic towards this young man of parts, who either on account of youthful enthusiasm or political misguidedness had become a criminal in the eyes of the Government? Would it be too much to ask if this Government would sympathetically view his case and release him forthwith? I am sure the Madras Government is strong enough to combat the intrigues, if any, that might be again renewed by Mr. Narayana Menon in case he is released. By demanding his release, we do not impugn in any way the right disposal of his case by the Madras High Court. We do not mean to say that the High Court committed a wrong in sentencing him, but we only pray for mercy, and ask that this young man should be released.

“Sir, I now turn my attention to the Industries department. As has been observed by my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, I must say, Sir, that the country on the whole is not benefited by this department to any extent. But one thing that I wish to particularly bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister is the amount of money spent upon what are called industrial schools. These industrial schools are more or less managed and maintained by missionary bodies. I am not quite sure if the subventions paid by the Madras Government are more for the maintenance of the inmates than for the increase either in the enlightenment or in the education of the pupils themselves. Sir, let me have a word or two with regard to the hon. the Minister for Education and the Minister for Local Self-Government before I close.

“Sir, I know it is quite futile to offer any remarks with regard to the departments in charge of the hon. Sir A. P. Patro. For the last six years, elementary and secondary education are on the same stage they were when he took charge of the department. (The hon. Sir A. P. Patro : ‘Question’.) As a matter of fact, in regard to elementary education, it is desirable that the agency which controls elementary education should be in one hand, either the local bodies or the district educational councils. There is no use of placing these schools under dual control and making the work of local bodies quite impossible in this direction. With regard to secondary education, the boards which he had constituted are mere farce. They do not serve any purpose. It is said that they have got the power of convening meetings once in a quarter and discussing certain recommendations which will be placed before them by the district educational officer. It was promised that the curricula of studies and the Grant-in-Aid Code would be revised. The computation of the grants-in-aid is so complex that many of the school-managers are unable to find how they arrive at the figures of grants that are

4th March 1926] [Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar]

made to each of these schools. They are more complex than the Income-tax rules. At least for the last three or four years, we can know on what intelligible basis the income-tax assessments are made. But with regard to the grants-in-aid, we are unable to find any intelligible method by which the department arrives at the figures on which they are now apportioning grants. I understand they are considered to be confidential. They are not made public to the managers of the schools even.

"Sir, with regard to the Local Self-Government Department"

The hon. Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Finished!"

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"I do not want to deal with Excise, because you are incorrigible in that matter."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The hon. Member should address the Chair."

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"With regard to the Local Self-Government Department, our faith and our claim for more powers of self-government are dependent upon the manner in which we manage the local bodies and municipalities. If the Royal Commission promised either in 1929 or some other date are now to arrive here and take stock of the manner in which the conduct of local bodies and municipalities is directed by the Local Self-Government Department, I have not got the least suspicion that they will not say that of all provinces the province of Madras is not fit for self-government. The conditions of these self-governing institutions are very deplorable, and I say this deplorable condition is directly due to the manner in which the Ministry is working these institutions.

"Sir, the elections in these local boards and municipalities are not free from official interference, and nominations are made more on party considerations than with a view to improving the machinery by which these bodies are to be managed. And the manner in which the Reserved Half of the Government is helping the Transferred Half in this matter only shows that the Reserved Half is anxious to see that the local boards and municipalities so mismanage themselves as to make themselves unfit for any further instalment of self-government. I say this deliberately. Even the review reports of these local bodies are not free from official bias. Wherever there is a ministerialist as president of a local body the review is favourable; wherever there is not, the review is unfavourable. (The hon. the Raja of Panagal : "That is not true"). The Raja of Ramnad wrote an article in the papers about this and it was not challenged. In certain municipalities, the president or the chairman is consulted with regard to nominations; in certain others they are not. For instance, in the Corporation of Madras I was not consulted with regard to the nominations."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"May I know which municipality was consulted in the matter of nomination?"

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"Berhampur municipality was consulted."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"It is not at all true, Sir."

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"I may say that even with regard to the Corporation of Madras, the hon. the Minister wrote to an applicant for nomination that it was the President that was making the

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar] [4th March 1926]

nomination and not he. I possess that letter with me and I shall be able to produce it to-morrow, Sir. It is therefore unchallenged that it is the President of the Corporation of Madras that has to be consulted with regard to nominations. (The hon. the Raja of Panagal: 'It is not') At any rate he has to be consulted. He has not been consulted so far as one nomination was concerned. I even volunteered to make recommendations. I am yet to see how far the Government are going to disregard the President in this matter. Attempts are made to introduce persons who are politically opposed to the party that is working the municipality, or the President at any rate. The object of it is obvious. It is their desire to make the position of the President inconvenient and make his work impossible."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has already exceeded his time by five minutes. Will he come to the end of his denunciations?"

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"I shall leave the denunciations as they are"

* MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on this the third budget of the second Reformed Council. As I sat and listened attentively to the speech of the hon. the Finance Member, it struck me as if it was an apology or a sort of consolation, the consolation being that there was to be no further taxation although it is hard to see what else is left to Government to tax the people on. Therefore it is that I take the year's performance as more or less a sort of consolation prize to the Presidency; and no one generally is enthusiastic over a consolation prize. So, I am sorry I do not feel enthusiastic over the budget."

"Sir, on an occasion like this naturally one's thoughts wander to the ryot and how the agriculturist is benefited by the adjustments of the finances of the province. In spite of the recent weighty pronouncement of the Taxation Committee that the land tax in Madras is "heaviest it is regrettable that in the present year's budget, which closely follows in the wake of the recent havoc in several districts owing to the heavy and unseasonable rains of December, when large remissions are naturally to be expected, especially in the district of Tanjore, the hon. the Finance Member should have budgeted for the same or nearly the same amount as receipts under land revenue as in the previous years. It is also regrettable that in spite of the crying demand, persistent and insistent demand, for permanent settlement, the charges under survey and settlement do not show any reduction."

"The Registration department, a department which, I take it, was originally intended to safeguard the rights of the people and their transactions, is used, I am sorry to say, as a sort of exploitation of the necessities of the poor ryots. For, I cannot otherwise understand how the department which receives an income of 47 lakhs and spends only 27 lakhs out of it can keep up the registration charges at the present high level any longer. The other day the hon. the Finance Member wound up his speech with a very appropriate quotation from a very respectable classical author, Cicero, to the effect that 'thrift is a great source of revenue'. But I am afraid the hon. Member seems to have forgotten to apply that very noble principle in the preparation of the budget which he has presented to us. Because in spite of anything that may be said to the contrary, there is no denying the

4th March 1926] [Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

fact that the deficit in this province is due largely to the bloated expenditure on high paid posts. For instance, the same number of deputy collectors are kept up in spite of the fact that income-tax officers have been appointed in all districts. When we turn from the high paid jobs in several departments to the humbler but certainly more useful ranks of village officers, it is regrettable to find that in the budget provision is not made for the pay of the large number of village officers who it was recently resolved by this House ought to be automatically restored. Moreover, I find that the number of village officers for 1926-27 is practically the same figure. I think in the case of village headmen, it is about 11 or so less than in the previous year. This sort of indifference to the contentment and well-being of their subordinate staff is not a solitary exception in the case of village officers only. If you take another class of subordinates, a very useful class, the revenue inspectors, I am sorry to note that the recent arrangement by which they have been divided into two classes, probably upper and lower, with a very great difference in their pay, namely, Rs. 35 and Rs. 60, is very discouraging to a class of hard-worked and long-suffering subordinates. Especially we must remember that in the previous years the difference between the two sets of grades was only Rs. 5 a month and we must also not forget that practically both grades of people are expected to do the same kind of work.

"If we take another class of subordinates, namely, the forest rangers, I find their condition also has been very deplorable. We know these people, very often they are young men of good families. After an arduous course of studies in the Forest College, they enter the Forest department with naturally great hopes. But once they enter the department, they find that their hopes are all blasted. These people work from day to day in jungles, far away from the abodes of civilization, struggling hard against malaria on the one hand and deep-rooted prejudices of the villagers on the other. (One hon. Member: 'Against wild beasts'). I will come to the wild beasts in a moment. These people do not find any prospects of promotion; not only in the near future, I am afraid, but even in the distant future. A casual glance at the budget will reveal the fact that there are already a large number of extra assistant conservators. They are, I believe, superfluous, because as far as I have been able to gather, there is not any known duty which has been assigned to them or can be assigned to them. It is only after work has been found for these superfluous and supernumerary men that the rangers can be thought of. Besides, these supernumerary people are recruited direct. Although the rangers come in for such unsympathetic treatment, and although there are not enough appointments going for them, yet the inconvenience to which they are put in the course of their service is very great. It is common knowledge that when they apply for leave it is very rarely that they get it or in time. It has been admitted by the Chief Conservator, I think, that the percentage of relieving hands necessary to grant them leave is 20 but the present available number works out only at 14 per cent. Therefore if things are allowed to go unattended to and if no sympathy is shown by the head of the department, the fate of these people will go from bad to worse and discontent will grow. In an answer to an interpellation, I think on the 2nd of this month, it was stated that the Government are not aware of the grievances of these people. I do not know whether the Government do not read newspapers or whether they live

[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar] [4th March 1926]

in a world where newspapers do not penetrate, or whether there is more truth in the saying 'None so blind as those who will not see' than are dreamt of. Well, this is the lot of these subordinates. The highly paid specialist officers under fancy names, such as exploitation officers, utilization officers and what not, continue to be added to the burden of the tax-payer. Apart from that, even the ordinary administrative staff in the Forest department has not undergone any diminution, although very large tracts of forest land have been and are being transferred from the control of the Forest department to the ryot. Not only that, even new appointments as panchayat staff are being added every day.

"I have given some careful attention to this aspect of the administration and I find it very hard to believe how on earth the ordinary rangers and the Forest subordinates are unfit to carry on the work for which these special panchayat officers are deemed fit. It is common knowledge that these rangers have received excellent training in the Forest College in almost every branch of scientific forestry. The present panchayat staff are recruited from the ministerial ranks of the Collectorate and have no special knowledge of the work. Government are very often found trotting out the old reason that the rangers have become very unpopular with the public, and that therefore they want to introduce the new set of officers. But if Government have been watching—as some of us have been watching—as to how these panchayat officers are fast becoming unpopular, I think they will no more trot out that old and exploded reason. Panchayat officers are becoming unpopular in spite of the very glowing word pictures on paper. In my district of North Arcot the panchayat officer recently circularised the panchayats asking them to pass resolutions prohibiting goat-grazing in poramboke lands. The heaven of the Reserved forest has been shut against the patient goat but now the porombokes also are to be taboo to them."

Mr. V. PANDRANG ROW :—"That is not true."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"May I suggest to the hon. Member that he is taking much of his own time in dwelling upon the details of the administration. It would be more proper at a later stage of the budget discussion. May I ask him to confine himself to the general principles of governmental policy? I am suggesting that not only in the interest of intelligent debate but also in his own interests."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Goat-grazing is a very important matter to the ryots. If I do not speak now I may not have a chance of speaking on it later on. I shall confine myself, however, to the principles of Government policy."

"Sir, a thing which even the Forest department has not prohibited during the last so many years, the North Arcot District Special Panchayat officer has prohibited. I am told that several panchayats have even gone to the length of impounding many goats."

"The callous indifference of the Government towards the interests of the ryots would be further apparent from the way in which a practically unanimous resolution of this House recommending the grant of manure leaves to the ryots at a reasonable rate of seigniorage, viz., six annas. It is common knowledge that our forests have become very bushy and overgrown with wild creepers which not only stunt the growth of useful trees, but also

4th March 1926]

[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

afford harbourage to wild animals. If in a populous place like Aminjikari, a suburb of Madras, a cheetah can be found molesting the people, it is proof positive that our forests are getting overgrown and that the old belief that the forests will get denuded by allowing people to cut and remove green manure has no foundation.

"I am glad that minor irrigation—a prime necessity for ryots, specially in dry districts like North Arcot and Salem—is to receive the long-delayed help. I hope that something will be done during the current year to improve the pay and prospects and especially the travelling allowances of minor irrigation officers which are now fixed at a very, very low scale. I hope also the minor irrigation supervisors also will be re-introduced at an early date."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will not the hon. Member be satisfied with another sentence or two of this peroration?"

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I will say a few words, Sir, with your indulgence, about the department of Co-operation. The writings of Sir Frederick Nicholson and Settlement reports show that the indebtedness of the ryots is now about Rs. 4,000 lakhs, and that the loans granted by the Co-operative movement to the ryots amount to only Rs. 45 lakhs. This shows how far we can say we have removed indebtedness of the ryots. So also in the case of loans for cultivation purposes, while Rs. 3,800 lakhs will be the amount necessary for the ryot to cultivate the 380 lakhs of acres available for cultivation giving only Rs. 10 as cost per acre we have lent only Rs. 26 lakhs for this purpose. That is, we have to progress 150 times before we can say we have done something to wipe off the indebtedness of the cultivator or finance him sufficiently to carry on his one calling—Agriculture. The co-operative movement is not only not progressing but going downwards. Sir, during the last six years the average amount of loan per member has declined from Rs. 44 to 31. The reserve fund percentage also has declined from 6.2 to 5.92 and overdues have increased from 25 to 42 per cent. That is a dangerous position if my hon. Friend the Development Minister will only realise it. For the fall in the average of the loan is indicative of the unpopularity of co-operative loans and the fall in the percentage of the reserve fund is an indication that the movement is not working on sound lines. While the department is working like this most unsatisfactorily, the number of appointments has gone up in the cadre of Assistant Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Inspectors and clerks and men are appointed with no known qualifications whatever. On the top of this comes the audacious proposal to appoint a Joint Registrar while all along the public was assured that only audit staff was needed. Even our apologetic Minister cannot give any reason for these appointments, much less can he justify them. All these have gone up in spite of the fact that there are now 320 non-official unions employing 400 supervisors to do this work. Further, several employees in the department, on account of the fact that communalism pays nowadays, have now begun a campaign of distrust of non-official activities and are trying the game of dividing urban from rural co-operators and central banks from primary societies. The scandal of the department's attitude in the matter of Honorary Assistant Registrars—more as reward for communal considerations—is only too well known."

[4th March 1926]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I ask the hon. Member to come to an end of his peroration ? "

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHEITIYAR :—" Only one more sentence, Sir. In my own district of Salem co-operative workers have been caught red-handed with benami loans, retaining and misusing of cash balances and other crimes and they are not punished for no other understandable reason than this communal bias. Sir, I can go on piling other iniquities any observer can see in the department. The Government must remember that 10 crores of the public money, widows' and orphans' money and the hard-earned savings of pensioners and of ill-paid public servants are invested in the central banks in the fond hope that Government is looking after these investments watchfully. Therefore, in the interest of the savings of these trusting people at least, Government must take care of the efficient supervision of these banks which I assert emphatically is very much neglected. Sir, the recent report of the Mangudi Society defalcation in which Rs 8,000 out of the working capital of Rs. 13,000 was eaten away by a single Secretary has revealed the fact that the expensive staff of Inspectors, etc., the total of whose wages has increased from 3 lakhs to 7 lakhs during the last six years are not auditing properly. The investigation has revealed that Inspectors do not audit but copy the figures given by the low-paid and ill-equipped supervisors. Most of the newly-recruited staff are more communal men and they think they have the support of the communal Minister at their back. Their audit is no audit at all and even in the case of the central bank which they are supposed to 'test' audit there is no pretence at auditing. In conclusion, I want the public to realise how dangerous it has become to invest their savings in this movement unsuspiciously, under the impression that the Government is at the back of their monies. They are unaware of the fact that the canker of communalism is eating into the vitals of this noble movement. I am sorry that the knowledge of this danger is sought to be kept out from the public eye, but if I have succeeded in calling the attention of the public and roused them to a sense of their duty I shall not consider I have spoken in vain."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think we may take that as the final sentence "

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHEITIYAR :—" I bow to your order, Sir."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Mr. President, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the admirable way in which he has presented this year's budget. Sir, the budget presents many satisfactory features about it. It provides for an additional expenditure of about 73 lakhs on various items some of which are highly useful to the country at large. It provides for about 10 lakhs towards the execution of what is known as the Pykara Hydro-electric project, about 14 lakhs for the expansion of elementary education, and about 34,000 for the extension of medical relief in rural areas. For these reasons it presents many satisfactory features for which there has not been adequate appreciation.

" The hon. the Finance Member has not been altogether able to escape a deficit in the coming year as the budget lands us in a deficit of about 19½ lakhs. It is not altogether his fault because it is a legacy which he has inherited from the past and I do not think it is in the capacity of any Finance Member to wipe off a deficit which has been handed down from year to year.

4th March 1926]

[Mr. P. Siva Rao]

Sir, it is also unfortunate that he has not been able to devote the whole of the 57 lakhs remitted by the Government of India out of the provincial contributions to expend on nation-building departments.

"Having said this, I pass on to one aspect of the matter in that it provides liberally for the Mettur Project scheme. I am not jealous of that scheme. I am not jealous of the position which the Mettur project occupies in the minds of the Government. But I want that the Government should bestow some attention upon what is known as the Tungabhadra project also. The hon. the Law Member is aware that the Government appointed a Committee to consider the question of the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts and Chittoor and the Committee have submitted a preliminary report in which they have come to a certain definite conclusion. They have recommended certain projects in a modified form, and the other day, we heard in answer to an interpellation put to the hon. the Law Member that the Government were about to sanction or have already sanctioned what is known as the West Canal Project scheme which benefits Bellary. But I have not been able to find any provision for it in the budget. Probably it may be lurking somewhere in the numerous pages of the budget estimate which I have not been able to find out. This West Canal project is only an attenuated form of the original Tungabhadra project.

"Speaking further, I wish to dilate on one particular aspect of the matter. It is opportune that we should refer in this connexion when we are considering the general aspect of this budget to the recommendations of the Taxation Inquiry Committee. One of the main recommendations made by that Committee is that land revenue should be standardized. The land revenue can be standardized only when the Resettlement Bill which has been on the legislative anvil for four or five years is introduced and placed on the Statute book and the settlement systematized. We heard this morning in answer to a question put that the matter is still under correspondence with the Government of India. I do not know how long the Government of Madras will take to introduce this most salutary measure that the country has been thinking of. Probably they may not introduce this wholesome measure until the whole of the resettlement operations are over, and there is no opportunity for it for some thirty years to come. If that is their beneficial intention by all means let them say so. The earlier a Land Revenue Settlement Bill is introduced and placed on the Statute book the better will it be for the country.

"I pass on now, Sir, to draw the attention of the House to the very very inadequate nature of the resources of the local bodies. More than once it has been brought to the notice of hon. Members how pitifully meagre are the resources of the local bodies even to meet their ordinary demands. It was with this view, Sir, that a few years ago at my humble instance a Committee which was known as the Financial Relations Committee of which Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah was the President was appointed. After an elaborate enquiry the Committee made certain definite recommendations. One of the main recommendations of that Committee was that a portion of the excise revenue derived from jurisdiction of a local body, one anna in the rupee, I believe, should be allotted for local purposes. This recommendation has not been carried into effect. There were other recommendations also which have not been carried into effect. The object of several of those

[Mr. P. Siva Rao]

[4th March 1926]

recommendations was to improve, strengthen and consolidate the resources of the local bodies and these have not been seriously considered by the local Government. In the meantime there came this Taxation Inquiry Committee which considered the relations between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments and the relations between the Provincial Governments and the local bodies. They have come to the conclusion that the resources of the local bodies are very meagre, very scanty and require to be strengthened as early as possible and that is the firm conviction of the hon. the Finance Member. In his speech he stated that in spite of the liberal provision which he has been able to make in the present budget they remained still inadequate. This is what the hon. the Finance Member said: 'These resources, even if efficiently administered and developed, are quite inadequate to meet the many claims upon them', to enable them to discharge the numerous duties which have been imposed upon them by Statute. And that is the unanimous conclusion of the Taxation Inquiry Committee.

1-30
p.m.

"I shall incidentally refer to certain other recommendations made by the Taxation Inquiry Committee with reference to the Provincial Governments. They strongly recommend that the court fees should be reduced; the stamp fees should be reduced; and the land revenue should be standardised. Again, Sir, in dealing with the resources of the local bodies they make certain recommendations to which I need not refer in detail at present. The ground rent derived within the limits of the town should be added to the local bodies' revenue. A third recommendation was that the system of doles to the local bodies should cease altogether and 'that they should be granted on some uniform and easily comprehensible plan so worked out in advance that the local body can arrange its programme of expenditure in good time and provide for a due adjustment between that, its expected receipts from provincial funds and its scheme of taxation' (page 394). I very strongly urge for the early appointment of a Committee to consider the relations between the Central and the Provincial Government, and especially the financial relations between the Provincial Government and the local bodies in the light of the recommendations made by the Taxation Enquiry Committee. If it may not benefit us this year, it may at least be useful for the years to come. I strongly urge for the appointment of a Committee to consider how best to augment, strengthen and husband the resources of the local bodies."

The House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch. (2-30 p.m.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before we proceed with the discussion on the budget I may be allowed to state that in the course of the forenoon I have received a number of chits from several hon. Members asking to be allowed to speak. I am always glad to receive communications from hon. Members but on the present occasion I do not think they are necessary. The only way to catch my eye is to get up and catch it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Are we to take it that the chits have no precedence either?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"No."

Mr. ABDUL HYE SAHIB:—"Sir, it is a matter of no little regret to us that while we stood in expectation of having at least a balanced

4th March 1926]

[Mr. Abdul Hye Sahib]

budget presented to us this year, we are once more confronted, much to our dismay, with a deficit budget. If only the axe of retrenchment applied to the poor subordinates had been applied to the existing top-heavy administration, there might have been no such thing as a deficit budget. Here is an opportunity therefore, for the hon. Ministers to set a noble example to others by showing to the world that it is not only high salaries that count for everything but the love of labour for its own sake. At a critical time like this they must voluntarily come to our rescue by accepting one-half of their present fat salaries and not as usual stand on the question of false prestige as compared with that of the Executive Council Members. Interpellations previously put in the Council have elicited that the Council Secretaries are more or less like so many white elephants stabled to give the Ministers the requisite air of importance. They have all along been undesirable drain on the poor man's purse. The earlier they are done away with the better.

"Coming now to some of the various departments I cannot help singling out the Jail Department as one where real economy can be effected. I have been ever harping on the necessity of abolishing the Alipuran Jail, Bellary. but to no purpose. I am not afraid to repeat that those prisoners who are convicted of serious offences might be distributed among the various Presidency jails, and others convicted for minor offences might be set at liberty. This is an item where really tangible savings can be effected. The allotment of 1½ lakhs of rupees for education is undoubtedly a move in the right direction, but it remains to be seen how far Muslims will be benefited thereby. No standard has so far been prescribed in the Elementary Education Survey Report for the schoolless villages inhabited by Muhammadans. The education of the Muslims girls is in a most neglected condition. Non-Muhammadan male officers ignorant of the Urdu language are not likely to advance its cause. Unless one of the subordinates like the Assistant or Sub-Assistant Inspectress necessarily a female (Muhammadan or Non-Muhammadan) knowing of course Urdu is placed in the sole charge of Muhammadan female education, there is absolutely no hope for anything like advancement in the near future.

"A sum of Rs. 89,500 has been provided for strengthening the subordinate inspecting agency. There can be no two opinions about its necessity. But if in the name of the said agency the old supervisors of schools discarded some time ago are to be brought back under a different nomenclature, their re-employment will prove to be a matter of doubtful utility. It is not known either how far the Muhammadan inspecting agency will be strengthened.

"In conclusion, Sir, I sincerely hope that the above suggestions for retrenchment and the amelioration of a backward community like that of the Muslims will receive the earnest consideration of Government."

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—"Sir, I represent a minority community. As we are in the minority, year after year we are not able to get any further with our educational development. In view of the remission of a portion of our contribution to the Central Government this year, I make a special appeal to the Government to show some consideration to the Anglo-Indian community. The hon. Member who just preceded me, appealed for more facilities for Muslim education; may I not appeal for some more consideration in the matter of education to our community."

[Mr. J. A. Davis]

[4th March 1926]

"I may point out that we in Ootacamund raised subscriptions and started our own school—the Breeks Memorial School. We collected a large sum of money and established a common school for Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans. As Anglo-Indians we have always co-operated with our Indian brethren. When the Madras Government reserved the Breeks Memorial School for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, a Municipal High School was started for the Indian section alone. In the Breeks Memorial School we do not get the same educational facilities as we get in a common national school, due to lack of funds. The municipality spends large sums of money in addition to the net cost of the High school for the education of our Indian brothers in Ootacamund. I make a special appeal to the Government to-day to see that the very organizers of these educational institutions in Ootacamund do not suffer owing to the splitting up of the original institution.

"Sir, even in the matter of medical treatment our community subscribed some lakhs of rupees and endowed St. Bartholomew's hospital. But as soon as the Reformed Government came in, we were given only the ordinary headquarter hospital at Ootacamund without any special advantages for our large endowments.

"Sir, I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his budget. As the chairman of a municipality with a few lakhs of income, I know the difficulties of framing a budget. I can therefore fully appreciate the budget as it is framed this year. I find in it schemes like the Mettur and Pykara projects, schemes which will in future years bring in recurring revenues to this Presidency. There are other works of great consequence also, all of which will serve to commemorate the term of office of the hon. the Law Member. I congratulate him.

"I shall now make a special appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. In keeping our municipal accounts we are continually taken to task by Government auditors. We cheerfully submit to all these pin pricks and do our work to the best of our abilities. The Ootacamund Municipal Council is one which collects almost 98 per cent of its revenues, i.e., four lakhs of rupees. Since the introduction of the Reformed Government things have changed with us. The Government stays there only for three months in the year and therefore much of the revenue that we were getting before does not come our way. I do not make this a special matter for complaint. We are so adjusting our finances as to keep the station up to the mark, though Government does not give us as much support in the shape of grants as heretofore.

"I must make a special appeal to the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government in connexion with this matter.

"I wish to invite his attention to a provision in the last Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act.

"There are many welcome amendments. There is one amendment with regard to the collection of our revenues. We feel we have been insulted in the reasons given for the insertion of that amendment. We would be the first to surrender our privileges if we default in the collection of our revenue. I am sure none of our Councillors will be against the punishment of defaulting municipalities. But, Sir, there is a feeling throughout Ootacamund that in a Presidency where, according to Lord Willingdon, the Reforms have been

4th March 1926]

[Mr. J. A. Davis]

worked more successfully than elsewhere, that to bring in an amendment to the effect that chairmen who are elected and responsible to the electorate for municipal administration should not have even the power of fixing the assessment, is carrying matters too far. Such a provision if carried would be a blot on the fair name of the Presidency. (Hear, hear.)

"I appeal to the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to see that that provision is omitted when he reintroduces the amending Bill.

"We quite agree that defaulting municipalities should be punished and severely punished. Any number of Revenue Officers may be appointed, who might examine the finances of such municipalities. But to argue that those responsible to the electorate cannot be trusted even with the fixing of assessment is striking at the very root of local self-government and democracy. I appeal to the Chief Minister to place greater trust in those returned by the electorate."

Mr. P. PEDIARAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, the budget is a most disappointing one. I am not concerned with the framing of the budget. No doubt only 76 lakhs is shown as deficit. The real deficit is much more than that because we are borrowing 282 lakhs of rupees. Deducting 57 lakhs it is 230 lakhs and odd. That shows that we are borrowing nearly 300 lakhs of rupees every year. We are borrowing year after year so that we are not able to balance our budget and our provincial finance has not improved. In spite of the fact that we got one crore last year and half a crore this year we are not able to balance our budget. That is a sorry picture of our finance.

2-45
p.m.

"Coming more to the needs and grievances of the people I will first turn my attention to the hon. the Leader of the House. Coming as I do from a district which has got much irrigation, I think that the real grievances of the people will have to be attended to by the hon. the Leader of the House who is in charge of Irrigation. I am sorry to say that in spite of nearly 2 crores that he is going to ask for Irrigation no provision has been made for the Kistna district, Gōdāvari Western and Kistna Eastern deltas. With regard to the Gōdāvari delta, no work is provided for in spite of the fact that for the last three years the Government have been promising to do something in the shape of remodelling or improving the drains. The late Sir Arthur Cotton when he constructed the anicut and sent up his final report said that several millions were still to be spent to improve the drains if irrigation was to be successful in that delta. I am sorry to say that year after year nothing has been done. For some years before Reforms the Government pleaded poverty owing to war. My predecessors coming from my district appealed to the Government and their cries were useless. In 1924 I gave a detailed picture of the needs of the Gōdāvari Western delta. I stated that the irrigation channels were in disrepair, that there was no silt clearance for about 20 years and that the drains were neglected. The hon. the Law Member was pleased to assure me that the Chief Engineer had made a note of those things and that early steps would be taken as early as possible to remedy the grievances. The Government have not yet moved its little finger.

"The only work undertaken in the Gōdāvari Western delta is the improvement of the Yenamadurru drain, for which one lakh is provided every year but only a sum of Rs. 70,000 or 80,000 is spent. I must say that the

[Mr. P. Peddiraju]

[4th March 1926]

money spent for that purpose is being wasted and is not well utilized because if all the one lakh of rupees are spent on the improvement of the drain I shall be satisfied. But what was done during the last three years is that a drag line excavator has been brought in at a cost of nearly Rs. 80,000 and is put up there. It has not commenced to work though there is a lot of establishment. Most of the money is wasted. I think the establishment costs about Rs. 1,000 a month. The Government has the audacity to say in reply to my questions sometime back, that it is working. I am sorry to say that it has not commenced to work. It was trying to work only in the month of January this year. Experts have come and gone and they have tried to work the machine. It is turning out work which is one-fourth of what manual labour can do. In spite of the repeated warnings I am sorry to say that the Government does not move, does not see what is being done and how much money is wasted. I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to go over to the place and see the thing for himself. That is why I say that money is being wasted on the improvement of the Yenamadurru drain.

"As regards the improvement of irrigation channels I am sorry to see that no provision is made. The hon. the Law Member was pleased to say two years back that a programme would be drawn up and that special establishment would be appointed. But nothing has been done.

"Then coming to the Kistna delta I am glad that certain proposals regarding the construction of shutters over the anicut have been undertaken. But my submission is that the construction of these is not after all useful unless the Government investigates into how the improvement in water regulation will help the ryot. I have brought to the notice of the Government often that several lands in Kaikalur taluk have not been registered under ayacut. The lands lie waste. Nothing has been done. The people are becoming poor and poor and they die of starvation. The Government spent 6 to 7 lakhs over the shutters. Some more lands should be brought under cultivation so that the Government will be able to collect revenue and the people will be able to irrigate their lands.

"I wish to offer a few remarks about the localization in the delta. The Government is aware that there are several estates in the Gōdāvari Western delta where there are several unlocalized mamul wet lands. Of late years the Government insisted on localization and the proprietors have localized certain lands. Localization is merely intended to improve the administrative convenience of the Government. I brought this fact to the notice of the Government and the hon. the Law Member assured me at the time of the consideration of the Irrigation Bill that, in spite of localization, all lands which are being irrigated now would continue to receive water. I have got instances in three estates where the Government is collecting penal water-cesses. All these lands are being irrigated for several years; these lands are mamul wet lands. In spite of this fact, the Government is saying that it is unauthorized irrigation and in certain cases five times or twenty times the amount is collected.

"Another difficulty which I brought to the notice of the Government when you have localization is the question from whom you are to collect the water-cess on the lands. Ordinarily, the water-cess is to be collected from the zamindar, because all these estates are in the A schedule. There is provision in the new Irrigation Bill also that the Government should not

4th March 1926]

[Mr. P. Peddiraju]

interfere with the existing rights between the ryots and the zamindar. The Government calls all these as unauthorized irrigation and collects water-cess from the ryots. So, the ryots suffer in two ways. Not only do they pay water-cess to the Government, they are paying by way of assessment to the zamindar also. They also pay penal water-cess. This is a very hard state of things and I would request the hon. the Law Member to hold an enquiry into these things. I can give him two or three instances, in the villages of Konithavada, Neredumalli and Ravipadu, which have come to my notice. I request the Government to consider and take steps to remedy this grievance.

"Another point that I wish to mention in this connexion is that provision is made year after year for the improvement of the Chettipet bank, the Nakkala drain, etc. Nothing has been done during the last three years though some money has been spent on them. The bunds are unprotected. It is a first-class bund. It is not repaired; it is not raised. In order to protect the bund, they have made some stop gap arrangement. A sum of Rs. 600 or 700 is spent every year and the remaining Rs. 700 is not utilized."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before the hon. Member wastes his time on such details, may I suggest to him that he may confine himself to the general principles of administrative policy? This is not the time for going into details."

MR. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"I am bound by your ruling. I gave notice of resolutions on these subjects, but I have had no opportunity of moving them for want of time. This is the only opportunity to speak on them. These are the grievances from which my district is suffering and I may be permitted to go on."

"Then, Sir, proposals were sent up for the improvement of the Vijjeswaram head sluices. But nothing has been done till now."

"I find that provision has been made in the budget for special establishments for the localization of the second-crop zone in the Gōdāvari Western delta. So far as I know, it is a troublesome business. The matter was investigated during the course of some years and it was given up for some time. I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that a special establishment was appointed in 1909-12 and Mr. Rangachari who investigated this matter prepared plans and estimates. All these reports are lying idle in the office; all these papers have been burnt or consigned to waste paper basket. A sum of Rs. 1,92,000 was wasted upon this matter."

"Last year, the hon. the Law Member proposed to explore and find out ways to reduce the court-fees. I do not know if any steps were taken in that direction. There are no signs of any action being taken."

"So far as the two departments under his charge are concerned, Courts and Police, they are well-established departments and are apt to get practically what all they want. The only useful department under his charge is Irrigation. New projects are being undertaken. But I am sorry to say that nothing has been done to safeguard the existing rights."

"Turning to the hon. the Revenue Member, I want to point out one or two mistakes. Survey and settlement operations are being conducted now. So far as our districts are concerned, there was survey in the years 1858 and 1897."

[Mr. P. Peddiraju]

[4th March 1926]

"The difficulty that is being experienced is that, if there is any difference between the survey of 1897 and the present survey, the Survey Department is penalizing it and levying a charge in the shape of the value of the land. Many of us have sent notices of resolutions to remedy the defect; but they could not be moved for want of time. If the present extent, i.e., the extent according to the present survey is in consonance with the old survey or resurvey, I request the hon. the Revenue Member to see that the larger extent that is recorded according to the old survey may be adopted and that no charge is made on that. Unfortunately we have no time to move resolutions. Therefore I will draw the attention of the Government now. This is a very serious matter which interferes with the rights of individual ryots. The attention of the officers concerned may be drawn to it.

"The Government is aware that in almost all villages there is want of vacant sites for constructing houses and building cattle sheds. What the ryots are doing now is they are raising the level of the fields and constructing houses and cattle sheds on the fields themselves. What I wish to point out is that these sites are still surveyed and classed as fields and the wet assessment rates are imposed on them. I would request the Government to see that the house-sites which adjoin the villages might be converted into village-sites. If there are stray houses and sheds away from the village and if there are raised grounds fit for building cattle sheds, they may be surveyed and subdivided; only the dry assessment should be fixed on them instead of wet assessment."

3 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has so far come only to the Revenue Member. If he will finish all the other Members of Government within one sentence, let him go on."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"I am not going to do that."

"Sir, these are the two things which I wanted to say. Coming to the Home Member"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member must have calculated the time that he would take when he began to go into the details of administration. I suppose he will finish in one sentence."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"There is no use of concluding in one sentence."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I freely concede that it is but right that credit must be given to the Government wherever it can be done, whether it is Reserved Half or Transferred Half, but at the same time I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that their actual achievement is small when compared with what they might have easily done. I agree that the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government has done us some good. For example, I welcome the Religious Endowments Act though I dislike the provisions contained in it which lend themselves to the use of the administrative machinery for party purposes. I welcome again his establishment of the Indian School of Medicine and his reorganization of the Health Department, but I must draw the line when I come to the administration of Local Self-Government Department. I am very sorry to note that he seems to think that he is justified in using his position as Local Self-Government Minister to strengthen his party. For instance, local boards are thrown open to election or nomination just as he is able to decide

4th March 1926] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

whether his party men will succeed or not. Nominations are made, I do not know, on what justifiable principles. Sometimes the composition of the boards is changed on principles, which I submit in all humility do not bear scrutiny, so that his partisans may get all the support they can. The hon. Minister for Self-Government has been saying that the Local Self-Government Department should hereafter be based on broad foundations and that for this purpose, he should begin his work in villages. He refers now to the establishment of village panchayats. I ask whether it took him all these six years to make this wonderful discovery. Statesman after statesman has been saying all these years that the growth of Local Self-Government depends upon the establishment of village panchayats. Well, a year ago, when I tabled a resolution connected with this matter, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government assured me that he was going to bring in a Bill and asked me to withdraw my resolution. The resolution that I wanted to move was for providing facilities for the disposal of suits in villages. I am yet to see that the Bill which he promised to introduce sees the light of day."

"As regards grants to local bodies there again I do not see any fair distribution. I find that district boards which have an income of 6 lakhs of rupees or 8 lakhs of rupees are treated more favourably than poorer boards which have an income of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees.

"Take again the grants which he succeeded in securing this year. He secured some 15 lakhs of rupees for the improvement of water-supply and village communication. He laid down that the concerned board should provide for an equal sum before he could give it anything out of this grant. How many estimates and plans have been prepared for all this sum and how much of the 30 lakhs of rupees that should have been allotted for wells and communications is going to be spent? How many schemes have been put in execution? How many schemes for which plans and estimates have already been prepared are still pending and how many to complete will be within this year and how many in the next year? I think these points deserve close scrutiny and examination. Why should we not follow the method followed by commercial firms and earmark the allotment and make it available for the next year also so that the work may be completed within the next year if it cannot be finished within this year. I am sure the hon. the Finance Member is calculating on the non-utilisation and consequent lapse of these sums and I doubt very much whether any deficit is going to occur, and whether he cannot wipe off the deficit of 19 lakhs and odd rupees by the sums likely to remain unspent this year.

"I do not want to dwell again on the Excise policy of the hon. Minister Sir A. P. Patro. He is a person beyond my power. (Laughter). All that I can say is that during all these years he never made any sincere attempt to abolish the drink evil."

"The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Question."

*MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"If you want me to go into details, I may ask the hon. the Minister for Excise what the Excise Advisory Committee did, how often it met and what steps he took in regard to the abolition of this drink evil. To elicit public opinion on this matter this Committee called for several witnesses to come and give their opinions and when the latter came on a particular day one of his Secretaries or Assistant

[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar] [4th March 1926]

Secretaries proposed to the Committee that the whole thing might be put off indefinitely. Is this seriousness on his part in tackling this problem?

"The hon. the Development Minister fortunately or unfortunately is in charge of departments vitally affecting the welfare of the people. Agriculture and Industries are the two important occupations of the people and yet, Sir, what has he done? The number of people who were depending upon these occupations as a means of livelihood is steadily declining, and the number of people who are now unemployed is increasing. Out of every thousand people there were 481 agricultural workers in the year 1901. This figure dropped down to 456 in 1911. Again in 1921 it dropped down still further to 381. Analysed it means that 20 per cent of these land-owners find it impossible to make both ends meet. They get themselves so heavily involved in debt that they cannot but part with their lands in order to keep their body and soul together. Does it mean that these people have become so disgusted with their agricultural occupation and therefore they have given up that occupation? Does it mean that they have resorted to industrial occupation? No, because I find from the reports that as against 56 lakhs of people who were depending upon industries in 1911 there were only 4 lakhs of people in 1921. So, Sir, if you really face the situation, it means that you have not rendered any appreciable benefit to our people in the departments of agriculture and industries. I do not know if the hon. the Minister for Development has done anything in this direction to investigate and find out the causes and the remedies therefor. He may say 'I have no money'. I do submit that this reply cannot bear examination. I want to know what he has done all these years or what his predecessor has done with the money that was given to them year after year? I find from the figures so far available that the Development Department allowed 4.3 lakhs of the year 1921-22 to lapse. In 1922-23 a sum of 4.6 lakhs lapsed, in 1923-24, 4.9 lakhs and in 1924-25, 8.9 lakhs. When they were thus not able to utilize the money that was given to them what justification can there be for saying that they have no money? Can he say that the real improvements which are imperatively needed in the direction of agriculture and industries had to be postponed because of want of money?

"The hon. the Home Member is showing some initiative and sympathy in the matter of Forest administration. But I do appeal to him to examine the policy in regard to giving up forests to village panchayats. Government are trying to exploit village forests and get money out of them. It must be his policy to give the forests to villagers on the most easy terms possible so that the villagers may have any incentive to keep them under their control as far as they can. The Government when they had their forest under their control had to meet heavy establishment charges in order to carry on their administration. If the Government were not till now getting anything for these forests, why should they be insisted upon the poor villagers to pay a heavy rent now? I request the hon. the Home Member to consider this question well.

"I am glad that the hon. the Revenue Member has done many things to relieve the sufferings of the ryots, but I must say in regard to districts in the famine zones his administration is lacking in forethought and statesmanship. Our districts—I am speaking for the whole of them—are situated in the famine zone. Famines occur there periodically. What have the Government

4th March 1926] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

done hitherto? There has been suspension of revenue for the last two or three years. They do not want to see that the ryots should start with a clean slate after the unfavourable year. Instead of writing off the revenue they allow the kists to accumulate and try to collect them all together with the result that the ryots cannot reclaim their normal position even in favourable reasons. In my own district the kist due for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 remained unpaid till this year. Even for the current year it remains in arrears. Kists of all these years are being collected along with the dues of current dues in one year. This is not all when there is famine in one year, the Government do not start famine relief works. On the other hand they are so liberal in their distribution of loans probably because they expect to recover them with interest. The unfortunate ryots enter into the snares spread by the Government and borrow as much money as they can and repent when they are asked to repay them. In this year the ryots of Anantapur and Bellary are faced with this very difficult situation and in very many villages the ryots are further required to pay two years assessment arrears. I would ask the hon. the Revenue Member to kindly consider over this question and see whether the Government cannot put off the collection of their loans to the next harvest.

"As regards the hon. the Law Member—he has seen our districts, he knows the economic condition of our people yet I fear that he is acting upon the policy, 'To him that hath more shall be given and from him that hath not the little that he hath shall be taken away'. It must be the duty of the State to render help more to the people who are in need of it than to people who can get along without such help from the Government. Here are districts with very poor resources. I ask the hon. the Law Member what he has done for them? Apart from the statements he has made here and there what has he actually done in initiating big schemes? With regard to West Canal project, the scheme was investigated and plans and estimates were prepared and it was accepted that the scheme would yield favourable results. I do not see any provision made in the next year's budget for this scheme. What has he done now in this budget to carry out the investigations with regard to the Tungabhadra project, whether in its old or new form? I hope he will correct me if I am wrong, but I think that there are many big schemes independent of this Tungabhadra scheme which the people themselves are prepared to work but the Government are following the 'dog in the manger policy' and would not work these projects themselves, or allow the people to work them.

"Sir, these are all matters which ought to be borne in mind by the respective Members of Government and something done to relieve the situation in our districts.

"Sir, you commented that we must discuss the general principles and with your permission I must say one or two words. I do feel that this trouble and lethargy in administration is due to the weakness of the hon. Ministers and that weakness is due to the fact that, apart from their own strength or weakness of alienation with the Government they have alienated on the one side the intelligent section of the people owing to their communal bias and on the other, have not retained the sympathy and support of the Government.

[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

[4th March 1926]

3-15
p.m.

"I cannot understand a party which does not stand out for programmes or policies but wants to entrench itself within fortifications of birth and other objectionable materials. Again, Sir, they are not dealing fairly, I must say, with the Reserved half. If the Reserved departments are willing to take the Ministers into their confidence and be guided by them in all that they do here in the Council, I say it is up to the Ministers to share responsibility with the Executive Council Members and to stand or fall with them. If on the other hand the Reserved half is not willing to take them into confidence, then it is up to the Ministers to tell them that they are not prepared to give their support to the Government in any measure which they may embark upon without their consent, and if they persist in that course, to even risk an election on that issue. I may tell the Ministers whoever may be occupying those places, that if they face an election on that issue, I can say without fear of contradiction, that the country will see to it that these patriots who raised such an issue and risked their future on that issue will certainly not suffer by that."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is unfortunate that year after year this House is faced with deficit budgets, the only consolation however being the prospect, the hope of realisation of something by way of remission of the provincial contribution. Even that seems to have the effect of increasing the deficit far from reducing it.

"The outstanding feature in the present budget seems to me to be the inadequacy of the allotments made for subjects of wide popular utility. Take for instance the provision made for the Andhra University that is to come into being. The hon. the Minister for Education may say that it is a provisional allotment, but I have my own fear as to whether greater interest will be taken in the matter later on. Further in regard to this question, I hear rumours that certain posts, professorial, tutorial and clerical, are being hurriedly filled up with non-Andhras. I have every confidence that there is ample Andhra talent to be utilized for these services. If there is any truth in these rumours, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister for Education to see to it that only Andhras are appointed for the posts so that the aspirations of the Andhras, the very foundation on which the Andhra University question rose may be strengthened.

"Then, Sir, turning to the Local Self-Government Department, I see that no proper allotment has been made for village reconstruction, for improvement of rural roads and for the spread of medical relief in rural areas. Late during the present year, when some portion of the provincial contribution was remitted, some amount was found for the needs of the rural areas. But unfortunately many other circumstances had intervened before the object could be realized. Since a part of the contribution had to be borne by the local boards who in their turn had to throw a part of the burden on the local ryots, the system did not work from the beginning and it is now hoped that it will be pushed at some speed. I hope that without allowing the amount that has been allotted to lapse, the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government will see his way to provide additional funds for the purpose.

"In connexion with water-supply schemes, I may invite the attention of the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to the Gudur water-supply scheme which has been long expected. I am sure, Sir, that the hon. the Raja of Panagal knows personally the untold miseries that the Gudur public and

4th March 1926] [Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi]

the people who resort to that place frequently are suffering from. It is the headquarters of a very big division; it lies at the junction where the perennial stream of pilgrims to the sacred shrine of Tirupati pass by and it lies also at the centre of a very big mica-producing tract. Year after year, it is very sickening to note in the pages of the *Fort St. George Gazette* the scarcity of water-supply in the town even for drinking purposes. A few months back, the district board of Nellore raised the question once again but probably the enthusiasm of late on this vital question has waned. I now take this opportunity to make a personal appeal to the hon. Minister so that he might take the question up and afford the necessary relief to the people in as early a time as possible. As regards medical relief to rural areas, there has been some misgiving as to the success of the scheme of organizing rural dispensaries. No doubt, trained men are wanting and the emoluments that are offered to these trained practitioners are not sufficient to attract them to the several dispensaries. There is however another system which is more cheap, more attractive and of greater use to the rural public. I mean the Indian system of medicine. The hon. Minister may now say that he cannot get practitioners trained in that system for there are not many that have been trained in it: and even in the Government School of Indian Medicine, it will probably take four or even more years to get the required number of men. I may suggest here that there are many private colleges and schools of Indian medicine in the Presidency working very satisfactorily and trained men may be either directly recruited to these dispensaries or an entrance examination for the purpose may be held to test their capacity before employment. Now the presidents of taluk and district boards are allowed to utilize their funds for opening Ayurvedic dispensaries and they are choosing their own trained men without consulting the Government. When they are allowed to do so, I cannot find the reason why the Government should shrink back from adopting the policy in regard to other institutions also. I should like to say that one school of Indian medicine for the whole of the Presidency will not suffice to cater to the needs of the whole area and a couple of them more will be able to train sufficient number of men in the direction. I hope the hon. Minister will take up the question seriously and consider the possibility of giving effect to it.

"Turning then to the question of the restoration of village officers, it is disappointing to find that the figures in the budget estimates do not show that provision has been made for the restoration of all the old officers. I am unable to comprehend the reason for such a state of affairs. Apart from that the pay of the village officers which has been fixed at Rs. 15, I hope, will not be reduced by the Government in the interests of the public and of administration too.

"Turning to the hon. the Minister for Development, I may state that he has not been moving in the proper direction in the matter of spending the money placed at his disposal. He is ready to spend lakhs for acquiring lands, for the upkeep of farms which are intended mainly for improving certain breed of cattle in certain localities. At the same time he is not taking particular care about the protection of cattle all over the presidency by improving the number of veterinary dispensaries and equipping them in a satisfactory manner. Promises were made some time back about the opening of new dispensaries; they have yet to be realised. I hope that hereafter at least the country will realise them.

[Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi]

[4th March 1926]

3-30
p.m.

"I have got only one other point before I close.

"Now, Sir, I have got only one point more. I very much like to invite the attention of the hon. the Law Member to the utter neglect of the district of Nellore in the matter of expansion of irrigation facilities. In 1923 a resolution moved by my hon. Colleague, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu, for the extension of irrigation projects in the Nellore district was unanimously passed by this hon. House, the hon. the Law Member not objecting. But till now no attempt has been made in that direction. To add to the indignities or rather misfortunes, the Ceded District Irrigation Enquiry Committee and the Government have excluded Nellore district from the scope of the Tungabhadra project. The Government have not been generous enough to allow representation to Nellore district on that Committee. I raise my voice of protest against this attitude and strongly urge that the Government should take up both the projects, the Tungabhadra and Sangameswaram projects, together as advised by Mr Hawkins, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and that the Nellore district should on no account be excluded from that comprehensive scheme; and side by side with these, other projects must be examined and worked out even as protective schemes.

"Another matter to which I wish to invite the attention of the hon. the Law Member and also of the Ministers for Local Self-Government and Public Works Department is the bad condition of the roadway over the Pennar anicut at Nellore. At a place where a first-class bridge is a necessity, even a roadway has not been favoured. The very bad condition of the roadway has drawn the attention of the District Board and the Public Works Department in the district and when a modest estimate for Rs 40,000 was submitted to the Government for sanction, the Government turned it down. Is it because the Government have not realised the difficulties or is it because some noise in the form of artificial agitation has not been put up by the district, that that proposal has been turned down? Anyhow, the result is that the proposal has been turned down, and it is not going to be realised for some time more if things are left to go on in the same way. I earnestly appeal to all the three Members of the Government together to reconsider this question and provide for it even from the trunk road grants."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Will the hon. Member kindly bring his remarks to a close?"

The speaker resumed his seat.

* Mr. K. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Sir, this is the sixth budget after the Reforms; year after year we have been hearing and participating in the discussions, and it is for this House and the country to judge what useful purpose if any has been served by these activities of this Legislative Council. Coming now to the budget figures, the hon. the Finance Member has taken credit for ordinary revenues for a sum which is about 7½ lakhs less than the usual revenue figures of last year, and I suppose we cannot blame him for it. I may say he is probably rather optimistic, and in spite of this adverse circumstance, and with the vexed question of Excise policy staring in the face of our finances, he has programmed for a new scheme of expenditure costing about 75 and odd lakhs. I am not sure if I have to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for this or the Members who are responsible for the selection of the new scheme of expenditure. There is in the memorandum supplied to us, thanks to the courtesy of the Finance Secretary, a list of

4th March 1926]

[Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi]

works proposed to be undertaken in that new scheme of expenditure. I feel that dozens of these schemes need not be taken up at all, or at any rate preference should have been given to other schemes of a more pressing nature. I may refer for instance to the expenditure, which is legitimate, on village roads and communications. I find that not only new provision has not been made but I see that the provision which was made last year, though late in the year, has been omitted, advisedly I suppose. I am not sure what reasons actuated the hon. the Finance Member in omitting this allotment. I am afraid the claims of the villager in these days are neglected and I do not know how the villager is going to impress himself on the minds of the hon. the Finance Member or the Finance Committee who are responsible for these schemes of expenditure. I may cite another instance. These schemes should have been allowed to lie over, and preference should have been given to, for instance, the opening of more veterinary dispensaries which are a great necessity and the want of which is very keenly felt in the districts.

"Coming now to the usual expenditure, I see that in every item of administration there is increase provided for. For the General administration expenditure is estimated at about 6 lakhs more than in last year, for the Police about 4 lakhs, Education about 16 lakhs, Medicine about 9 lakhs, and Civil Works about 34 lakhs. I am afraid the hon. the Finance Member has not made out any case for increasing expenditure in other departments than probably in the case of Education. I know the increase is partly due to the incremental scales which have been recently given, and in the statement of the hon. Finance Member, he says that the increase cannot end this year or in the near future. These scales have already contributed to an increase of expenditure of about $14\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs this year and they are going to contribute about $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs next year, and the hon. the Finance Member does not know which year he is going to say that we have reached the average expenditure on account of the incremental scales of pay. If we go on at this rate, I do not know how we are going to adjust our finances to the needs of our expenditure.

"I have to offer one or two remarks in this connexion about the general administration of the province. I do not know what percentage of expenditure is incurred for collection purposes in other provinces, but I find from the administration report of the Madras Presidency that district administration alone, exclusive of the village establishments, costs about 13.6 per cent of the total expenditure, and including the village establishments it comes to about 27.9 per cent or so of the total collections. I know that the Member in charge will at once rise up and say that these establishments are not in charge of collection of revenue alone but are also in charge of other miscellaneous work for which they are not paid extra. But at the same time I may impress on the attention of the hon. Member in charge that there is room for further improvement in this matter and I hope, if necessary with the help of some of the non-official Members of this House, the question will be thoroughly examined.

"With regard to education I find some improvements have been made in the course of this year. I see among the new schemes of expenditure, a subordinate inspecting agency has been created and I have to congratulate the hon. the Minister for Education for this new innovation. I know as the President of the District Board of South Arcot so many aided schools are run

[Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi]

[4th March 1926]

which are not properly supervised and which require careful scrutiny and supervision by inspecting officers. I know, as matters stand at present, these inspecting officers are not capable of inspecting all the schools in a year, and I am glad the hon. the Minister for Education has succeeded in getting an allotment for this purpose for the next year. The Minister has again to be congratulated for increasing his quota of expenditure for primary education, but at the same time, I would impress on him the necessity for helping the aided schools and improving the condition of teacher-managers, and not on insisting on opening more local board schools. There is a tendency, in view of the fact that local board teachers are paid much more than what the aided school teachers get in the shape of grants, for the local board schools to squat upon places where aided schools now flourish. And I hope, as an inducement for aided education, the Minister will increase the prospects of these aided school teacher-managers, and that he will not allow the local boards to open more schools than are actually necessary. But in respect of secondary education under the head of grants to local bodies I have to submit that this year the allotment has been reduced from 9.45 lakhs to 9.17 and odd lakhs. The decrease is rather small, but I am not able to understand the policy which the Education Minister follows in regard to the distribution of grants to secondary schools. I am not sure if he encourages the net cost system in all the secondary schools. I may give an instance which has occurred in my district. I want a school to be opened at Vriddhachalam which as some hon. Members of this House may know, is about 30 miles from the nearest railway station and about the same distance from the nearest secondary school. There is absolutely no secondary school, or a high school opened by any Mission agency, and if any student of that locality has to go in for secondary education, he has to go to Chidambaram or Trichinopoly or Salem. Chidambaram is 30 miles, Salem 70 miles and Trichinopoly about 50 miles from Vriddhachalam. In this place there exists no secondary institution. And when the district board wanted to start it, the Government said 'No, we are not prepared to contribute any share of the expenditure which the district board may undertake'. I do not know what policy underlay this refusal, and I want to know the policy of the Government in this matter of secondary education.

"With regard to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government I am glad he has provided a decent allotment of 2 lakhs of rupees for Indian medicine, and he is to be congratulated for that. I again see that in this matter, the metropolis is preferred to the rural areas. With regard to the rural areas, I know he has started some of the rural dispensaries, but at the same time I must bring to his notice that there are not very many institutions that are flourishing now. It is true most of the taluk boards have started these institutions, and after some time or other these die out, because I know the subsidies offered to them are very small and they are not encouraging to these young men who want to start life in an out-of-the-way place. So they do not stick on to these places and necessarily the taluk boards have sooner or later to close these dispensaries.

"And then, there is another problem which the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government has to tackle and that very early. There are the taluk headquarter institutions which are now supposed to be run partly with the help of Government contribution and partly with the local board monies. I say with the help of Government money because the

4th March 1926]

[K. Sitarama Reddi]

superior staff of these institutions is being paid with Government money. The local board subordinates, the peons, the midwives and menials are paid by respective taluk boards, as also the cost of medicines. But it is high time that these institutions are placed on a better basis and systematised, so that the whole institution may be run completely with the help of provincial funds. I know that this thing has been long in the air, and I do not know when the scheme will reach fruition.

"With regard to civil works, they have been described very nicely by the hon. the Finance Member as a service head of all departments, but there are some items which are not urgent. For instance, there is the scheme of quarters for district judges in some places. But these schemes can certainly afford to wait and other more urgent and important schemes could have been thought of for preference to satisfy more pressing needs.

(The hon. the Deputy President took the chair.)

"Before I close I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Law Member that after all the question of the improvements to the Vadavar, Mettu Vaikkal and Veeranum tank have been proceeded with this year. I hope no difficulties will stand in the way of these works being started this year. These works are necessary for the proper upkeep of the district board roads. The Vadavar breach occurred in the year 1924 and this resulted in the breach of a bridge and when I asked the Government to contribute half the expense in this behalf they say they are not concerned with this because it is a drainage channel. The cause of the collapse of the bridge is the nature of the Vadavar sluice heads. Similarly arrangements for the surplus of the Veeranum tank are so shabby that they cause breaches in the district board roads and have caused reduction in the toll income. It is high time that the Government take up these works. There is already a rumour that owing to railway construction these works may be put off. I hope the hon. the Law Member will not countenance such proposals that may emanate from the district officers."

3-45
p. m.

* Mr G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"Sir, please permit me to remark that the achievements of the Local Self-Government Department have not been as numerous as they are stated to be. It is admitted on all hands, in theory that the village must be the unit of organization and must be the unit from which development must begin; the village is taken to be the basis of every development nowadays. In spite of that recognition, precious little has been done to give the necessary impetus for rural advancement. True it is that rural dispensaries have been introduced mainly in theory and to some extent in practice but very much remains to be done as yet. The question of rural education is a most important one. It has been stated over and over again that for the purpose of spreading education adequately far into the interior it is very necessary to give all encouragement to the aided institutions so that with the same amount of cost now incurred by the Government a larger number of institutions may be started for the spread of education far into the interior. Somehow or other that aspect of the question has not fallen well on the ears of the hon. the Minister for Education and I now hear an attempt has been made to give the powers of managing some of the schools to the village panchayats to be organized in the future. The idea is a laudable one but at the same time I might say that what was mentioned by me in the earlier days was nothing.

[Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

[4th March 1926]

very different from that. It will enable every village to have a school if in every village, a sort of village panchayat is organized. Subsequently a statutory status might be given to that institution as well and finally the village panchayat will be the sole body in charge of the school. Thus without increasing the financial burdens, four times the number of the present schools might be instituted in every district if only board schools are replaced by aided institutions, which are in no way inferior to board schools. I have worked out the figures for my own district and I have come to the conclusion that such a thing is possible if we do the thing in the right way. I once again place it before this House and the hon. Minister for Education for their consideration. As regards the question of village organization very often the question of finance is said to stand in the way. I suggested several methods of improving the rural finances and none of them seems to have been considered by the Government seriously. One thing that I have specially referred to in this connexion is the question of the unearned increment of the Government. Government gets abnormal incomes every year, and year after year they are getting merged in the provincial revenues. The increment may be in the form of penal assessment for encroachments into village-sites; or it may be by the cultivating tenants getting into the porambores; or it may be tank bed cultivations without the previous permission of the Government; or it may be taking water from a source which is not usual without the previous permission of the departmental heads. All these things are taxable and are taxed with heavy penalties in practice. What I submit is that these are not to be taken as provincial revenues and Government have no right whatever to expect them as a matter of course and add them on to the general revenue. If any reason should prevail in preference to the unthinking custom, the benefit of these increments must be given to the village communities in accordance with the ancient custom. The villagers have at times to pay 10, 20 and sometimes 25 times the assessment as penalty when they infringe the rules either intentionally or unintentionally in the cases of encroachments indicated above. In such cases the benefit of the penalty should go to the villagers in common because all that was encroached upon or used without the technical sanction was to the detriment of the villagers concerned and not to the general public. The increments must, reasonably considered, necessarily go to the improvement of the finances of the villages because it is the village public that suffer and not the general public. Similarly the revenues of the forest department derived by the handing over of the forests to the village panchayat should be given to the village panchayats. The financial result of handing over the forest to the village panchayats is seen here. In the year ending 31st March 1924 Rs. 47,000 is the annual revenue as opposed to a net loss of Rs. 1,200 before. Therefore if the number of forests under the village panchayats is increased it is possible that Government would derive a net profit taking the negative as well as the positive aspects of the matter into consideration of over a lakh of rupees. They will be saving the maintenance charges that they will have to incur out of their pocket. From the answer given to my question last week I gather that the Government is making a profit of one lakh of rupees, in that way even now. I think this one lakh may well serve as a nucleus to the village panchayat fund. There are a number of ways of finding the Finance if the Government only means to do it. I would submit that this is a thing which the Transferred department should insist upon when dealing with the Finance Department. Coming to

4th March*1926]

[Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

the Development Department I see that nothing has been done to my district. The hon. Minister for Development was expected to come and he was asked to come. I don't know whether he will come at all.

A VOICE :—"In April."

* MR. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"I am glad the hon. Minister for Development is having many tours, but not to my own district. I would like him to come there and see how my district is in need of development. It may be a matter of surprise to any Government, any responsible Government with sympathy to the people that within the last settlement period, i.e., during the last thirty years, out of seven lakhs ten thousand acres only five per cent has been occupied by ryots on patta. That district is pre-eminently agricultural in population. Seventy-eight per cent of the people are agriculturists and yet 5 per cent only of the assessed waste is occupied. Of the lands classed as wet only 45 per cent has been occupied. What does it show? Neither the dry nor the wet land is claimed by the people with any amount of avidity. When you realize that agriculture is the most important occupation of the people even to the extent of 78 per cent, it is up to the Government to see how to better their status. It is regrettable to see that Government have not done anything in this respect. In this connexion, I must point out that the burden has to be shared by the hon. the Revenue Member and the hon. the Law Member. It is their duty to cater to the irrigational needs of the country. When we see only 45 per cent of the wet land has been occupied, it does not reflect much credit on the irrigation department, major or minor. I hope they will do something, Sir, soon to relieve the distress prevailing in this district. It is also intended by the hon. the Revenue Member to arrange for a resettlement of that district. The scheme report was published in the district gazette of 5th February 1925 and it shows that it is proposed to increase the wet assessment by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is a pity, when there is such a deplorable state of irrigation facilities, when only 45 per cent of the assessed wet land has been occupied within the previous settlement period, when only 5 per cent of the dry area available has been brought under cultivation within a period of thirty years, when there is such a little demand for land and when $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of land obtained on darkhast is being relinquished annually, it is a thousand pities, I say, that the Government should think of enhancing the land revenue. It is a thing which an ordinary human mind cannot understand. Government have their own ideas and their own reasons. But how far they will stand the test of public scrutiny is a matter for deep meditation by the Government and the Board of Revenue. I hope that the Government would call for objections; that they would fix a time for hearing them and then proceed further. I say they should keep all these settlements in suspense until the Land Revenue Bill is enacted. It is now four or five years since they commenced the correspondence on the subject with the Government of India. I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will say to the Government of India that the matter should be urgently disposed of because it has been hanging on for an inordinately long period. There is also another matter that I would commend to the attention of the Government, viz., whether it is worth while for them to proceed with the land revenue settlement in this district which has very little irrigation facilities. After all, what is it that the Government would get if the proposal is carried out? The result will be that they will get Rs. 42,000. For the sake of this Rs. 42,000, the people of the whole district and the people of all the villages are to be placed in an embarrassing situation.

[Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

[4th March 1926]

"Sir, coming to the question of the way in which the Criminal Tribes Act is administered, it has fallen to my lot to raise that question several times. I had the opportunity of speaking to the hon. Member in charge of the subject. He has given me the assurance that the matter will be considered when the change of rules is taken up. I was also told that he was considering the change of rules. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member has in answer to my question yesterday given expression to the sentiment that people possessing sheep and cattle are being booked under the Criminal Tribes Act, perhaps because they are habitual offenders. I will agree that if they are habitual offenders they might be booked. But the facts are otherwise. I am personally acquainted with a few of such cases. When I ask the divisional officers why they are so booked, I get no answer. When I made personal enquiries, it is said that it is because that some of them have relations 50 or 60 miles off who had been punished long long ago and not that they themselves committed the offence. If their relations are in the vicinity and if by marriage or other ways they have anything to do with the offenders, these people are also booked under the Criminal Tribes Act and made to go to the police station twice in the night, once at 10 p.m. and again at 4 a.m. They have to go a distance of four or five miles every time and come back to their place of residence only the next morning. The result is their cattle, their homestead, their crops and all which are left behind are stolen or otherwise damaged by people who are cleverer criminals than themselves. They lose their means of livelihood, and are driven to acts of criminality even by the Government who are anxious about their betterment. Therefore, Sir, I would submit for the consideration of the hon. the Home Member all these facts for a detailed examination of the way in which the Criminal Tribes Act is being administered. It is very right to say that for the sake of the commonweal some will have to put up with some sort of hardship. Justice is built on two pillars. 'The first elementary principle of jurisprudence is that no man shall undeservedly suffer and no man is to be wronged.' The second is 'that good be done to all, if possible'. But here in the name of the common good, all men are being harassed merely because they are born in a caste. They may be absolutely innocent, but in the name of the interests of the country some of these poor people are being handled cruelly in this fashion without consideration of their antecedents or their character.

4 p.m.

"Coming to the hon. the Law Member, I have one or two points to say. The first thing is that mentioned by Mr. Krishnan Nayar as regards the Pondicherry affair. The hon. the Law Member has been pleased to say that the British Government is not in league with the French Government and is not a party to having us registered and to compelling us to give finger-prints of all our ten fingers and our palms. I wish it were so. At the same time, as a responsible hon. Member of this House has been treated in that way, I would request that some more investigation should be made before giving an answer on the floor of this House that this Government had nothing to do with it. It might be that the Government as such might be unaware of the fact and it might be the pious wish of the hon. the Law Member. But the Government has too many hands and too many legs, and they do not know what leg trampled upon what person and what cruel hand was laid on what innocent heart. Therefore, I would like the hon. the Law Member to issue proper instructions to see that neither in the name of the Government nor in the name of the department no Member of this House or any other honest citizen who goes to Pondicherry to see some friends of his is molested in that

4th March 1926]

[Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

fashion. I am sure there are some sub-inspectors of the British force there, who ought to know something about the affair. I wish the hon. the Law Member would take us more into his confidence though it be the result of the activities of C.I.D. officials, and he should find out and tell us how this thing happened and how it could be avoided. I thought it was the birth-right of every British citizen to go to any part of a foreign empire without being put to the indignity and necessity of giving his finger-prints and palm photos.

"The next point requiring some remarks is the question of the Administration Report of the Police Department. It was once raised in a debate here that the Commissioner of Police for the City of Madras made some remarks about party politics, about parties, about the party in power, parties rising in power, and parties declining in power. At that time, it was also pointed out that the same report contained a more objectionable feature and that is as you, Mr. Deputy President, know fully well, the paragraph devoted to political activities in the province. Gentlemen like the Rt. Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri, Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. C. R. Das and Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar are included in the chapter which gives the statistics of crime. (Laughter.) I asked the hon. the Law Member yesterday a question as to why it was so, and he was pleased to say that it was a matter within the province of the Commissioner of Police. I thought the hon. Member would say, instead of saying that it was a matter for which he was not personally responsible, that he would look into it. At the same time, I think it is up to the Government to find out whether political leaders, like Mahatma Gandhi, ought not to be distinguished from the criminals included in those statistics.

"There is only one other matter and that is about the question of punitive police. We have been told,—at any rate I have been able to see from the budget,—that there is no allotment for punitive police. I am glad that the justice of the citizens has been vindicated and I am glad that a slur on the people has been removed from the face of the Madras Presidency. But there is one point. If I remember right, the question was raised on an earlier occasion as to whether the Government should bear any portion of the cost and if so in what proportion, and seeing that the punitive police should no longer continue I commend to the Government the idea of completely relieving the people of all burden on this account.

"With these few remarks, I would request the hon. the Law Member to consider the matter more closely and take the people into his confidence before taking any drastic or harsh measures, if ever any such occasion arise in the future.

* Khan Bahadur V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR :—“Mr. President, Sir, the most striking feature about the budget for 1926-27 is that it is a deficit one. But a deficit budget cannot be unsatisfactory if the deficit is the result of causes, which are beyond human control. The present budget, though a deficit one, is also an honest one, as no attempt is made in it to conceal facts from us. Hence we cannot well blame the hon. the Finance Member for having presented to this Council a deficit budget for 1926-27. I therefore sympathize with the difficulties of the hon. the Finance Member in preparing this budget, but at the same time, I cannot help feeling that this province is rather unfortunate in being faced this year also with a deficit budget.

[Mr. V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar] [4th March 1926]

"Now, the only reasonable way in which this deficit can be met is by retrenchment in the proper direction. By proper retrenchment, I mean, not the reduction of a number of clerks or peons or constables; but the retrenchment must be in higher quarters. For instance, there are a number of officers, such as the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Conservators of Forest, Superintending Engineers, and the like. Such officers may very well be abolished. Excepting this method of financial salvation for this province, additional taxation cannot be thought of. In fact, this province is the most heavily taxed of all the provinces, and the country is not in a position to pay any more taxes. Year after year, some district or other, in this province, is affected by adverse seasons or floods. Last year, unprecedented floods have produced devastations in the country. This year, enormous damage has been done to the harvest, owing to recent heavy rains, in districts like Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Arcot. Consequently, the mirasidars are ruined, and the people are threatened with famine. I hope that the hon. the Revenue Member who understands the famine conditions very well will give us timely remissions, enter into the feelings of the people and grant them relief when they are badly in need of the same.

"Coming to the budget, let me say a few words that concern my community. I believe, Sir, it is admitted on all hands that the Muhammadan community of this Presidency as compared with other sister communities is backward in education. And, education now imparted to Muhammadans cannot be said to be satisfactory so long as the present system of education confines itself to the secular side alone. I therefore appeal to Government to make arrangements for imparting moral and religious instruction in Muhammadan schools, side by side with secular instruction and to award more free scholarships to poor Muhammadans, to enable them to educate themselves, as the present number of scholarships is inadequate to meet the needs of the community. I hope that enough funds would be placed at the disposal of the hon. the Minister for Education for expenditure in this direction.

"In the Local Self-Government department administered by the hon. the Chief Minister, the local bodies have not only secured greater freedom but have also received substantial assistance in the matter of stabilising their finances. Communications, medical aid and public health have not escaped his attention. Yet, much more remains to be done in these directions. The need of the villagers is the provision for a good water-supply and the maintenance of good village roads. No doubt Government now make large grants to district boards for maintenance of trunk roads and second-class roads. I wish that some grant is made in aid of village roads also, in order to connect the villages with the nearest trunk roads. As regards village water-supply, it is necessary that sufficient provision should be made in the budget for grants to local bodies for the purpose of sinking wells in villages. I would also suggest that Government should transfer public buildings and minor irrigation to the control of the Local Self-Government department, so that the District Board Engineer and his staff may attend to such works as there is not much work for them in their respective departments. As a measure of economy, this experiment may be tried."

*Sir ALEXANDER MACDOUGALL:—"Mr. President, it seems to me, as the House is very thin and especially as more speakers are not coming forward,

4th March 1926]

[Sir Alexander MacDougall]

that the House is getting tired of the Budget debate and the Members would like to go home. I would like to make some remarks on an occasion like the present Budget session, and I may begin with a note of congratulation to the hon. the Finance Member on the courageous manner in which he has conceived the next year's Budget. From the savings and short expenditure of the current year, he hopes to end the year with a favourable balance, and next year he hopes that there will be an increase in revenue of Rs. 17 lakhs. Now many people in his position would have been content with the hope, on that assurance, that next year the Budget will close with a possible surplus. Instead of that, however, the hon. the Finance Member being made of slightly stronger stuff than most of us had the courage to budget for a deficit of Rs. 76 lakhs. If he had been like many of us, he would have told the spending departments, 'Look here, gentlemen. The financial state of the Presidency is such that I cannot afford to find money for any new schemes. It is my aim to have a surplus, and, if you want money for any new schemes, you must carry them through with money saved from your present allotments.' But the Finance Member had the courage to place his confidence in the people and the potentialities of this Presidency, and he went forward in giving money, to a number of new schemes, and his courage has been rewarded to a certain extent by the remission of Rs. 57 lakhs in our provincial contribution that we have been promised from Delhi. I sincerely trust that the Madras Members in the Legislative Assembly will see to it that the Finance Member of the Legislative Assembly is not compelled to fritter away that Rs. 57 lakhs in less worthy schemes.

"Turning to the Budget itself, one would like to roam over the whole field and criticize, as some endeavour was made this morning, each Member of the Government, beginning from the hon. the Law Member down to the hon. the Minister for Development. I do not, however, intend to do that. One remark, however, that I would like to make is in reference to the decrease in excise revenue. That decrease, I have no doubt, will please every part in the House with the exception of the hon. the Finance Member. Those in favour of prohibition in this House will no doubt pat themselves on the back and say that this decrease is a result of their propaganda, while the hon. the Minister for Excise, on the other hand, will claim that it is a vindication of the policy of the Government. Others may attribute it to the poverty of the people and say that the people having no money had to drink less. I however trust that it is not due to an increase in illicit trade, which is certainly foreshadowed in the Finance Member's speech in drawing our attention to the increased expenditure in carrying out this particular policy by way of a preventive staff.

"Industries, when I was in this Council before, used to be my favourite topic, as I flatter myself I know a little about industry. I am very pleased to observe from the Budget that industries are to receive a considerably large sum. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Development, does not seek to spend this amount in the institution of new industries or new institutes. He is quite content to carry on those legacies that were left by the late Ministers, and spend the money he gets for the coming year mostly in a very good direction, and that is the encouragement of industrial schools. He also proposes to spend a considerable amount in pumping and boring plant. That, I believe, is the most profitable branch of the whole Department of Industries, which this Government has. Such a step will have a really good effect on the country and towards the prosperity of the people, who can get assistance

[Sir Alexander MacDougall]

[4th March 1926]

4-15
p.m.

from this particular department at very cheap rates, and the department, so far as I understand, is particularly efficient in that direction. There are one or two institutes which are run by my hon. Friend the Minister for Development and which I would like to see cut out. But I leave it to another Member of the Cabinet, if it is possible to persuade him, so that with that money he can do the country a better service. I welcome the increased grant to the Medical Department and Public Health. I am glad to note that in the Medical Department money is going to be spent on new hospitals and on additional equipment and establishments. I am also gratified to note that the Public Health Department is getting increased grant which will be used in increasing the staff of health officers, etc. This department is doing wonderful work in various parts of the Presidency. I regret, Sir, that the Minister for Local Self-Government has not seen fit to budget a little more money for the purpose of public health propaganda. Prevention, we are told, is always better than cure, and it is much better to prevent disease, by spending possibly less on the prevention, than spending more on the cure of the disease. For three years, a non-official body has been working towards this end and has achieved wonderful success in the Presidency. That body consisted of practically honorary workers and the demands on their labours have been extraordinary. This year they have overspent the sum allotted to them. I have no doubt that next year the Minister for Local Self-Government will see that the funds at their disposal are increased which will in turn extend the scope of their work. The Government will have to pay an officer for this particular purpose. In the United Provinces, I understand this department has been spending one and a half lakhs on public health propaganda work. It is admitted that the majority of the people of this country are poor, uneducated, ignorant in the ways of health, etc., and require to be educated into the first duties of doing good to themselves. It is all well to spend money on research colleges, schools for tropical diseases, etc. But what is the result of these inquiries and researches to the people? It is quite useless to spend money on them. Public health propaganda has to be carried on in a particular way, in a way that will appeal to the people. That can be done in Madras. We have got the men to carry on the work, men who can understand and do the work. But what we do want in this Presidency is whole-time officers with special assistants in the line. I trust that during the year the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will see to it that he is a little more liberal in his grants, and I may just whisper in his ears that if he has a real heart to heart talk with his Friend the Minister for Development and induce that Minister to close the Fruit Preserving Institute at Coonoor, to close one or other of the institutes which neither give profit nor pleasure—it may be a pleasure to a few, but certainly not to the Finance Member who has got to pay for such concerns—if he can only persuade him to divert the money to the other concern, I am sure the benefit to the public will be very very great indeed.

“There is just one other point that I should like to advert to, that is the proposed new works. I would really ask the Government if new schemes for buildings, etc., are placed before them for consideration, they should to a certain extent hasten slowly. We have had instances, not so very long ago, when hastily conceived schemes have been started, money has been spent on them, and the schemes have been finally dropped and much cheaper ones substituted. I trust that in the coming year, if money is going to be spent

4th March 1926]

[Sir Alexander MacDougall]

on any scheme, if the scheme is worthy of the money it will be carried out, otherwise not. That is my suggestion."

* **MR V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER** :—"It is very unfortunate to see deficit budgets every year. The tendency of the Government is to multiply expenditure in several directions, and to create departments and then to find work for them. We find that very large expenditure is incurred in several departments. I will take first the Forest department. In that department, development work has taken many directions. New sections have been added, as forest engineering, forest utilization and exploitation schemes and such other things. Excepting in very rare instances, we find almost all these schemes are proving failures. If at all any profit is shown in the reports, it may be set down to the ingenuity of the officers concerned. We have the Russellkonda saw mill, we have the Mount Stuart, we have the Chenat Nair, and we have some other schemes also. In all these we find only a few thousands as profit and in one or two great losses. When we study the receipt and expenditure of these schemes, we find the largest income is derived from the sale of produce or from private agencies. The income from the Government agency is very little compared to the charges incurred on account of development. These schemes when they were started were not properly investigated and the markets were not studied. We find that the reason stated for not getting proper revenue is that the market is not favourable. It is due to too much production. Too much production means not only waste of establishment but waste of material also. All this can very well be avoided if proper investigation had been made before they were started. On Chenat Nair a very large amount is going to be thrown away. As for Russellkonda, though I am far away from it yet from what I have heard, they cannot sell the timber. Why should they devastate the forests and then put the timber on the market and find no sales? It is devastating the resources of the country. The market should be found before they produce a thing. Government have got the monopoly of this forest produce and it is their business to find out whether a market can be had for it or not. Then they employ machinery to extract timber. That is a policy which cannot be condemned too strongly. In Chenat Nair any amount of labour can be procured by means of elephants where elephants cost little. They have the elephants, they have the means of feeding them. What do they do? They get down machinery costing 20 and 40 thousands and spend large amounts on their repairs and in addition maintain a regular establishment to attend to such repairs. I do not know why Chenat Nair has not been worked on a commercial basis. I know that if Chenat Nair has been worked as a commercial concern, it would prove a huge loss. It seems that just to cover such losses they have the Olavakode saw mill combined in the scheme.

"With regard to forest panchayats, I quite welcome the arrangements Government have undertaken so far. But they are not giving proper encouragement and proper help to the development of these panchayats.

"In certain areas they have promised certain concessions to the ryots in the shape of rewards, but even when the ryots applied for such rewards, they have not been paid at all. In a particular instance I took personal interest in a matter and wrote several letters but even then the ryots have not been able to get the refund promised to the panchayatdars for the past several years. So much so they feel it very difficult to get on with their undertakings. If such things are not properly done and in time, then a day will come when the panchayats will be misusing their powers and will not be

[Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder] [4th March 1926]

working properly. If proper encouragement is not given and sympathy not shown to this body of people, they will find their time very hard.

"With regard to Abkari, I wish to say a few words. There are so many policies laid down with regard to excise, such as maximum revenue and minimum consumption and in addition there is the Government of India's policy on an elaborate scale. I wish to ask the hon. the Minister for Excise if these policies have proved beneficial to the country. I want a straight answer to this question. The hon. Minister has five years' experience of the excise administration and he has had enough material and evidence before him in regard to this matter and he has also the elaborate information gathered from all parts of the Presidency and even from all parts of the world. We want to know in what direction he has in any way improved the situation that is threatening the welfare of the country. In all his speeches he has not hitherto given us his own observations and his own ideas as to how he is going to eradicate this drink evil. He listens to all that we say but thinks that all our suggestions for improving the situation are impracticable or impossible. He invariably gives some such excuse and postpones giving his own opinion in the matter. So far as I have been able to see from the answers which the hon. Minister has been giving us from the outset and from the answers which he gave us on the last occasion, I do not find any definite policy which he is going to formulate to get rid of this evil. If he is earnest in making any attempt, I would request him to launch a definite and bold policy for adoption at least during the current year.

"With regard to agriculture, I wish to say a few words. I find from the provision made in the budget that a large sum is allotted for the Hosur cattle farm. We were told that the buildings already in existence there would accommodate thousands of cattle and yet the cost of the land itself with the buildings thereon cost nearly 3 lakhs. And, there is going to be a further expenditure on it of about Rs. 30,000 or 40,000. I do not know what is the hurry for incurring such a heavy expenditure on that scheme. I do not see the necessity for a costly dairy farm at the Hosur depot. In order to help the ryot we do not want these costly schemes. What we want is enough provision for grazing, fodder, manures, cheap credit and development of irrigation. These are the things which are essential. I would request the hon. Minister for Development to see that enough provision is made for these things, for, these alone give immediate benefit to the ryots. No doubt he has initiated a scheme of land mortgage banks. But that is a very poor solution. Unless we have a liberal scheme and a large amount of money, it would not be of much use. As observed by my hon. Friend, Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar, at the rate at which the co-operative societies are progressing in the matter of giving relief to the ryots, it will take about 150 years before the ryots are relieved of their indebtedness. God knows what will be the condition of the ryot at this rate of progress under the reformed Government, even though it is accepted on all hands that the condition of the ryot requires immediate help.

"We want suitable machinery for agriculture. We have the agricultural engineer and I find a very small provision of Rs. 2,000 made for the agricultural workshop. The engineer is paid about Rs. 600 or 700 and a big staff would be there to maintain the dignity of his office. But what work is given to this officer? What facilities are provided to utilize his special line of work? There is nothing of that kind. His work seems to be in looking after certain machinery on the central farm which work can be

4th March 1926] [Mr. V. C. Vellingiri (Gounder)]

done by ordinary supervisors or mechanics of the department. For want of an up-to-date workshop, his valuable services are being lost every year to the country. Nothing good comes out of such policies like this. We have heard that agricultural machinery has been developed to a great extent in other countries. Here, in our country, such valuable and useful developments are yet to begin while Government profess they are spending lakhs and lakhs.

“Coming again to co-operation I wish to say that if co-operation is at all to be developed, it should be entrusted to non-officials. Desire to have societies should come from people below and not from official and others from above. As it is, so far as I have been able to observe, societies are thrust upon people because the registrars, paid, honorary, etc., appointed for it have to show that they started so many societies. That is why we are having the spectacle of so many concerns going into liquidation. As observed by one of my hon. Friends, the co-operative movement is not doing sound work.

“About public health I wish to say a few words. What we are having in the Public Health department is a few sanitary overseers scattered over the district and what they are doing is this: if there is an epidemic case in their locality, give out any amount of advice in the way they were taught in school as to disinfect the locality, put some powder in the wells, prepare and write nice report to his superior and be satisfied that they have done their duty.

“I welcome the budget in one respect. There is a comparatively large provision made in it for minor irrigation. Minor irrigation goes a long way for the development of the country. I am not for having such big and costly schemes as the one at Mettur. We find that after spending huge sums of money on it, the progress so far has not been satisfactory. The site has not been fixed yet and the survey work is going on with numerous experts. After all, the country which has been suffering from famine and from periodical scarcity of fodder is not going to be benefited and is continuing to suffer like that and the whole resource of the Presidency is going to be spent for the benefit of a particular tract which is already being served by major irrigation works. No doubt, we are told that our position will also be considered. I request the hon. Member for Irrigation to consider such schemes as will benefit those tracts which are suffering from periodical scarcity of rain and water.

“Now, Sir, with regard to education I wish to say a few words. I am speaking only about village education. We have any number of supervising advising authorities such as inspectorates, secondary education boards, district educational councils, etc. But all these cannot solve the problem of village education. Now, the progress or even the existence of village education is only seen in the administration report as so many schools opened and so much work done. All this will be nice to read, but when we come to the actual position in the village, we find that the condition, the standard and the quality and quantity of education has become very poor. Therefore what is necessary is adequate funds and an efficient supervising staff. I would request that in all village schools a few acres of land may be added for imparting to the pupils, agricultural education also. The agricultural education which is proposed at present to be imparted in higher classes will do no good at all. If only agricultural teaching is given by providing lands of a sufficient extent to each of these village schools, it will encourage the boys

[Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder] [4th March 1926]

of the ryots and create in them enthusiasm for acquiring an elementary knowledge of agricultural education.

4-45
P.m.

"Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Royal Commission on Agriculture which is proposed to be appointed. I want to know whether the Government of Madras in their report have strongly recommended to the Commission the necessity for relieving the indebtedness of the ryot. Without solving the problem of relieving the indebtedness of the ryot, all attempts at improving the agricultural condition of the country by the introduction of improved and scientific methods of the west would be of no use. We do not want the scientific training by people coming from western countries; what we want is credit facilities and that can be had locally. The Government of Madras can easily come to the rescue of the ryot."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will the hon. Member please finish soon?"

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"Yes, Sir. With regard to the schemes for hydro-electric development, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member that he seems to be more interested in the application of electricity to industries and railways rather than to agriculture. It is equally necessary that electricity should be applied to agriculture also. I hope the hon. the Law Member will keep this in mind when he gives contracts or monopolies for the consumption or distribution of the current. A large portion of the central districts of our Presidency is under well-irrigation. Cheap electric power will be of much use to those areas. I am glad to note that the Chief Engineer Mr. Hawkins has made some investigations in this connexion.

"Again, Sir, the budget for stationery has not gone down in spite of the fact that a large quantity of literature which was supplied to us in previous years had been stopped now. I do not know by what order it has been done. We, representatives of the people, want to know every information connected with the administration. Unless we are supplied with all the papers, we will not be in a position to know the details of administration. We are now asked to apply for it. It is a very hard job for us to apply for papers and get them. Under the system of the Reformed Government, the representatives of the people who are asked to co-operate with the Government in their work should be supplied with all these papers. In so many other directions the representatives of the people have to find fault with the Government. In the departments of Local Self-Government and Abkari the Government non-co-operate with the people. It is this non-co-operation of the Government with the people that has brought in the failure of so many schemes and produced so many factions in the Local Self-Government. The Government want that there should be factions in connexion with their Abkari administration; otherwise they by their methods create them. We want the hearty co-operation of the Government with the people. Without that there would ever be an increase of expenditure in Jails, Police and there would be more litigation. I appeal for a more hearty co-operation of the Government with the people. Otherwise the country will suffer and a time will soon arrive when the Government will be most unpopular. Ultimately worst results will follow."

The House adjourned at 4-50 p.m. to meet at 11 o'clock on Friday, the 5th March 1926.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.